

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On June 27th, at Tientsin, the wife of H. REINHOLD, of a daughter.
On July 4th, at Soochow, the wife of A. C. CLEAR, of a daughter.
On July 4th, at Foochow, the wife of Mr. N. A. NIELSEN, of a son.
On July 8th, at Shanghai, the wife of W. A. ESTIS, of a son.
On July 9th, at Shanghai, the wife of MAX HOBERTER, of a son.
On July 15th, at No. 2 Redhill, The Peak, to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. C. BONNAR, a son.

MARRIAGE.

On July 4th, at H.B.M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, before Sir Pelham L. Warren, K.C.M.G., Consul-General, and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, THOMAS HENRY UNITE ALDRIDGE, of Kensington, London, to DOROTHY CLARE FRASER, of Streatham Hill, London.

DEATHS.

On July 8th, at Shanghai, CATHERINE (Kitty), daughter of J. G. and L. Carnaghan, aged 2 years and one month.
On July 10th, at the Shanghai General Hospital, JENNIE WADE, aged 47 years.
On July 18th, at Peak Hospital, MAUD, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Haynes, aged 1 year and 11 months. Deeply regretted.
On July 14th, at the Peak Hospital, CHARLES GUY BLOOD of the firm of Messrs. Palmer and Turner, aged 83 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 16th June arrived per N. D. L. s.s. *Goeben* on the 15th inst.
The French Mail of the 19th June arrived per M.M. s.s. *Caedonien* to-day, the 20th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The Board of Finance proposes to issue orders for the suppression of all Provincial lotteries in China.

Some sixty houses were burnt at Hakodate on the morning of June 27th, the fire starting from the residence of a railway official.

It is notified that Messrs. N. Moule & Co., Ltd., of Amoy, have voluntarily gone into liquidation, and that Mr. G. W. Barton has been appointed liquidator.

The new Commercial Treaty between China and Sweden was signed in Peking on the 6th inst. by H.E. Lien Fang (Senior Vice-President of the Waiwupu) on behalf of the Chinese Government.

Their Majesties have asked the various ministers to devise ways and means to raise funds for the Imperial Exchequer as the Treasury is almost empty and loans are not easy to raise.

Messrs. Arnhold Karberg are reported to have secured the contract to supply the Palace at Peking and the Wai Wu Pu offices with electric light plant. The order is stated to be a very large one.

Three men have been condemned to death in connection with the recent attempt to poison the troops at Hanoi. Other men alleged to be implicated are under trial. A Chinese chemist and his four boys have been arrested on a charge of having prepared the poison.

It is reported by wire from Liaoyang that the Asiatic Petroleum Company of England has decided to erect oil tanks at Liaoyang, and has selected a site for that purpose south of the railway station there, which has been approved by the South Manchurian Railway Company.

The American cruiser squadron left Hankow for Shanghai on the 6th inst. The squadron consisted of the cruisers *Rainbow*, *Cleveland* and *Denver*, and the gunboat *Callao*. There were also at Hankow on that day the British gunboat *Kinsha* and the French gunboat *Décidé*.

In recognition of services rendered during the war, H.M. the Emperor of Japan has been pleased to confer on Mr. David Crowe, dockmaster at the Mitsui Bishi Dockyard and Engine Works, Nagasaki, the Sixth Class of the Order of the Rising Sun; and on Mr. J. Mansbridge, foreman rigger and diver at the Dockyard, the Sixth Class of the Order of the Sacred Treasure.

A Manila newspaper to hand by Tuesday's mail announces that "Cholera gains some." On the 9th, 262 cases, of which 124 were fatal, were notified from Pagsanjan province. In the five provinces affected there was a total for the day of 334 cases and 185 deaths. From January 1 last there have been 5,229 cases and 3,476 deaths in the Philippines from the malady, or in other words, an average of about 20 cases a day.

Official figures are published of the value of trade between the mainland (Japan) and Formosa for last year. The total imports into Formosa amounted to Y19,750,450, the principal line imported being cotton fabrics, valued at about Y2,000,000, none of the other items exceeding Y1,000,000, in value. The total exports to Japan were valued at Y 7,381,744, including about Y7,500,000 rice, and Y2,800,000 camphor and camphor oil.

It is stated in Japan papers that 20,000 Japanese troops are operating in Korea against the insurgents. The *Japan Mail* remarks:—"Absolute silence continues to be preserved with regard to the doings of the Japanese troops. The general impression seems to be that they have almost stamped out the insurrection, but apparently it is considered expedient not to publish details which would merely furnish material for exaggerated stories."

News from the North states that the Yangtze is rising considerably; the dyke of Anking (capital of Anhui) is in danger of being flooded and several streets on the eastern bank of the Yangtze have collapsed into the river. About fifty houses have been swept away at Ch'ih and the dyke of Ch'ingtsaowu is flooded. Hsinchou, Lichichu, Luchichu and Chienchiapao (in Huangchou prefecture, Hupeh) are also flooded and the damage done is considerable.

Mr. Ralph Paget, British Minister Plenipotentiary, Bangkok, has received instructions from the Foreign Office to proceed to England at once. It is not definitely known whether he will return to Bangkok, but on his departure Mr. W. R. D. Beckett will act as Chargé d'Affaires. It is currently reported, says the *Siam Observer*, that Mr. Paget's sudden summons is due to something in connection with the new Anglo-Siamese Treaty, as otherwise he had not expected to leave Bangkok till October next.

Mr. E. T. Bethell, late Editor of the *Korea Daily News*, who was recently sentenced by the court to twenty-one days' imprisonment as a first class misdemeanant, was brought before Mr. Bourne, Acting Judge, at the Supreme Court, Shanghai, on Saturday last to give security for his future good behaviour. His Lordship said prisoner had been ordered to give security to be of good behaviour for six months, and he would be satisfied with the sum of £200 in prisoner's own recognisances and one surety of £150. If prisoner would enter into that recognisance he would be discharged, if not, he would have to be deported from China. Prisoner entered into the necessary recognisance and was thereupon released.

The firm of Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co. drapers and outfitters, who have branches in Shanghai and the Straits Settlements, has been incorporated under the Companies' Act. The capital of the company is £600,000, divided into 400,000 six per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each and 200,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. The average profits of the businesses carried on by the firm, on the basis of the last five years, is stated in the prospectus to have been £55,914. 0s. 5d. To this is added £7,243 17s. 5d. the amount of rents hitherto paid for premises now taken over by the Company, and £2,535 rent receivable from part of new premises let at Shanghai and Colombo. This gives a total of £65,692 17s. 10d. After payment of the six per cent. dividend on preference shares a surplus of £41,692 17s. 10d. is shown. The purchase price was fixed at £540,000, of which £33,458 was for goodwill.

The Imperial Commissioners in charge of the prohibition of opium-smoking among official classes in Peking and the provinces have found out, says a contemporary, that there are no less than twenty-seven Metropolitan officials smoking *sub rosa*. It is stated that if, when the limit of three months (from May 1st 1908) granted by the Throne has expired, these officials are found to be still unable to break off their proclivities, they shall be denounced to the Throne for punishment.

The cry of the Chinese at Batavia for education under official control has been met by the opening of the first Government Dutch school there for people of that nationality. The school was opened on July 1, in the presence of a large gathering, official and otherwise. The Resident of Batavia spoke about the readiness of the Government to meet Chinese wishes in the matter of separate schools, and urged the parents not to neglect to see to their children attending neatly and clearly dressed. Several leading Chinese present thanked the Government for the action it had taken. Two hundred and seven children were enrolled on the first day, the ages varying from six to sixteen years. Six teachers undertook the task of instruction.

His Excellency Captain Coutinho, the ex-Governor of Macao, is credited in the San Francisco papers with a statement on the seizure of the "Tatsu-maru," from which it appears that Portugal as well as Japan made a claim on China, but the nature of the claim is not stated. A paragraph in the interview reads:—"In behalf of the Portuguese Government the Portuguese Minister took the matter up with Peking, and there has resulted a diplomatic correspondence between that capital and Lisbon which is not yet settled. Portugal claims that the act was committed within Portuguese waters. Whatever the settlement which China may be forced to make with Portugal, Captain Coutinho holds that Japan was within her rights in forcing the apology."

It is proposed to hold an Exhibition of Old Chinese Porcelain in Shanghai under the auspices of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, in or about the second week in November. A special feature was the decision to issue a descriptive catalogue, profusely illustrated, after the Exhibition, which will embody the history of the ceramic art in China, and also a detailed catalogue of all the pieces exhibited. The Exhibition, the N.-C. Daily News remarks, seems to be meeting with much popularity, and exhibits are already promised from high Chinese official sources; in fact it promises to be a unique exposition. It was also decided to send particulars of the coming Exhibition to all the European and American art journals, also inviting subscriptions to the edition which will be issued. Any information or suggestion which may be of interest to the proposed Exhibition will be gladly received by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. W. Bahr, care of Messrs. Hopkins, Dunn & Co.

HONGKONG.

The Colonial Secretary has received information that the Government of Indo-China has declared Hongkong to be an infected port.

On July 15th Sergeant Peter Brazil, one of the most popular officers in the police force, was married to Miss Norah Harley in St. Joseph's Church, Hongkong.

In view of the prevalence of Cholera at Canton and the surrounding districts, the Sanitary Department have issued a warning to the public to take the usual precautions against infection.

Six months' imprisonment in default of payment of a fine of \$200 was the sentence imposed on a Chinese woman by Mr. J. B. Wood at the Magistracy for dumping the dead body of a child near Arsenal Street.

The schedule for the 1909 Flower and Vegetable Show under the auspices of the Hongkong Horticultural Society has been issued. The exhibition, which will be open for two days as usual, will be held in the latter part of February. The rules are practically the same as before, though two additional rules are inserted, and the schedule is thoroughly comprehensive. Mr. L. Gibbs is the honorary secretary.

H. M. cruiser *Monmouth* on completion of an extensive refit, left on the 16th inst. for Wei-hai-wei.

Lieut. Colonel Carter, of the Army Pay Department left the Colony by the last English Mail steamer on transfer to Dublin.

Mr. E. Shellim has been appointed Chairman of the Court of Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in place of Mr. H. Keswick who resigned on leaving the Colony.

Another batch of men from the a.s. "Sheikh" were before the Marine Magistrate on July 13th on a charge of refusing to obey the lawful commands of the Captain. The five men were ordered to forfeit ten days' pay and to undergo seven days' hard labour.

On July 11th Miss Hadden, of the Hongkong Nursing Institute, was married at St. John's Cathedral to Mr. B. L. Frost of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co's service. Dr. Stedman gave the bride away. Miss Harrison acted as bridesmaid and Mr. Brayfield as best man.

The accountant in a rice shop in Wing Lok Street was on July 13th convicted by Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy of having given a receipt over the value of \$25 without having stamped it. Mr. Denny, of the Crown Solicitor's office, prosecuted, and the defendant was fined \$20. This is the second case within a week where an accountant has been fined for evading the Stamp Ordinance.

A burglary at the premises occupied by Messrs Caldbeck, MacGregor & Company was reported to the police yesterday. When the clerk entered at six o'clock in the morning he found the main door open and further examination showed that the drawers in the place had been forced open and money to the extent of \$53 abstracted. The burglars had apparently entered by the open fanlight and after searching the premises and failing to open the safe, they drew the bolts in the main door and got away.

An old woman attempted to commit on the 15th inst. suicide by drowning. She jumped into the harbour at Kennedytown and as she was seen walking in the water an Indian watchman and a lukong went in to rescue her. When she saw them coming she made for deeper water but was ultimately caught and assisted out. She was taken to the Police Station at West Point where her demeanour suggested insanity. She was medically examined and subsequently removed to the asylum.

An unusually large number of coolies were landed in Hongkong on July 12 from the South. Ninety-four time-expired labourers from the Netherlands Indies were brought here, prior to being passed on to their respective districts, and 21 criminals came up from Singapore. They were dealt with by the police and deported. These 115 men could not be accommodated at the Central Police Station and had to remain in the Station compound all night under the charge of lukongs.

Much sympathy will be felt with Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Gordon whose little five-year old son is lying at the Peak Hospital suffering from extensive burns on the body. He was standing near a small methylated spirit lamp when the draught created by the opening of a door drove the flame upon him and instantly ignited his clothes. Fortunately Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were close at hand and succeeded in extinguishing the flames but not before the poor little fellow had been very severely burnt about the body. Fortunately the face suffered but slightly. Mr. Gordon had his right hand badly burnt in extinguishing the fire.

The Members of the Committee of the Kowloon Cricket Club met after the opening of the New Pavilion, and the Chairman on behalf of the Members presented Mr. N. H. Mody with a silver souvenir. Mr. Richardson in making the presentation referred to the fact that it was mainly through the efforts of the President that the Club had been able to build this pavilion. He then proposed the health of Mr. Mody and the toast was received with enthusiasm. Mr. Mody in reply thanked the Members for the souvenir which he said he would always cherish as a memorial of the successful days. He thanked the Committee for the way in which they had worked and proposed "Success to the Club."

The Colonial Treasurer's statement of the Colony's assets and liabilities on April 30th shows the balance of assets over liabilities to be \$1,447,816.01. The liabilities are placed at \$2,069,322.95, and the assets at \$3,517,138.96.

Since Sunday over 200 undesirables have been dealt with by the Hongkong police. This is an exceptionally large number and entails a considerable amount of work. From Saigon came 37 undesirables and from Singapore 16 undesirables.

On the 15th July the officers of the Brazilian cruiser visiting Hongkong were entertained by Commandador and Mrs. Leiria and the members of the Portuguese Club at the Lusitano Club. Music was discoursed during the afternoon.

For smuggling opium from Bangkok the assistant comprador on the German steamer "Paklet" was at the Magistracy yesterday fined \$150. Mr. Hoggarth, excise officer, explained that two years ago the Opium Farmer had notified shipping firms that on the arrival of any vessel with opium that the opium would be sealed and taken to the Opium Farm and transferred to the ship when it was ready to sail. This would prevent the ships from being detained pending a search for opium.

A Chinaman was charged on July 17th at the Magistracy with having obtained \$1,000 by false pretences. His *modus operandi* was alleged to be that he represented himself as the agent of a shipping company and could obtain for the complainant and his friends situations as compradores and assistant compradores on the steamers. He required a deposit of \$1,000. When he received this money nothing more was heard of him. Mr. Goldring appeared to prosecute and Mr. R. Harding appeared for the defence. A remand was granted.

The police on duty at the "Shun Lee" wharf on July 14th came upon an interesting case of kidnapping. It appears that a few days ago a couple at West Point reported that their six months' old son had been abducted, and curiously enough as the mother was standing on the wharf she saw an old woman going on board with the child on her back. She informed the police who arrested the old woman. The latter protested her innocence and declared that she had been asked by another woman to take the child down to the steamer and received twenty cents for so doing. She took the police to this other woman who denied any knowledge of the arrangement. Both women are in custody and the case will be thrashed out on Monday.

Two lukongs very cleverly interfered in the confidence trick the other day and spoiled a fairly good harvest for two tricksters. An old junkwoman from Shauiwan came up on Monday for a day in the town and was accosted at the Clock Tower by two men who said they were looking for their uncle and would be glad if she could assist them. They walked on together and then one of the men nudged the old woman and told her that his companion had picked up a bundle of notes but as he distrusted him he would be delighted if she would get them changed. She agreed, and as she was moving off with the bundle it was suggested that she should leave some of her gold rings as security. She parted with one or two, but before the tricksters could get away the two lukongs who had been shadowing them swooped down and took them in custody. On Tuesday they were convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

The death of Mr. W. Bailby, who assisted at the construction of the Hongkong tramways, took place on the 4th inst. on board the P. and O. intermediate steamer "Namur," between Hongkong and Singapore. The deceased was on his way home from Shanghai along with his wife. After leaving Shanghai, he became ill from the effects of rheumatic fever he had when young, and soon after the ship had left Hongkong, he became delirious and died as stated. Mr. Bailby looked after the interests of Messrs Dick, Kerr and Co. at the laying down of the Singapore tramway system, and on finishing his work there he went to Bangkok to assist in the erection of the tramway system there, and eventually proceeded to Shanghai, where he arrived about two years ago and was employed as an engineer for the tramways with the firm of Messrs Bruce, Peebles and Company. Mr. Bailby was married at home eighteen months ago. He was 28 years of age.

A THREATENING CALAMITY.

(Daily Press, 11th July.)

Following closely upon the terrible devastation caused by the floods in the Kwangtung province comes the alarming news of a serious outbreak of cholera at Canton, the provincial capital. Our correspondent's information published yesterday is that it is spreading rapidly all over the city and that many deaths have occurred. That the state of affairs at Canton is recognised by the city authorities as extremely serious is clearly shown in the precautionary measures adopted to check the spread of the disease. No suggestion is contained in our correspondent's brief paragraph as to what the authorities deem to be the originating cause of the epidemic, but we do not suppose it would be very wide of the mark to connect it with the flood and the resulting contamination of the water supplies in the southern and eastern suburbs where the disease first made its appearance. If that be the origin it is greatly to be feared that the city, and perhaps the whole province, may suffer terribly from the scourge. We sincerely hope these apprehensions will not be realised. Cholera, however, like bubonic plague, is not a disease that a city may easily rid itself of when once it obtains a foothold—as the health authorities in the Philippines have been experiencing. They are still fighting the scourge in several provinces. Since the 1st of January over 3,000 deaths have been recorded, representing something like forty per cent of the cases notified. In the province of Pangasinan especially it is still bad; but the health authorities appear to have successfully kept the port of Manila practically free of the disease, and the prevalence of cholera in the provinces has not occasioned the slightest apprehension in the ports having trade relations with Manila. But an epidemic of a malignant type in the city of Canton, especially at a time when all the conditions appear favourable to its development there and in the neighbouring districts is a much more serious matter and may well occasion anxiety to the health authorities of this Colony as well as to the governing authorities of the neighbouring province. In Hongkong we have practically reached the end of a rather bad plague season in which the cases notified total near upon a thousand. How Canton has fared in the matter of plague there are no available statistics to show, though to all appearances plague is not considered to have been as bad there as in Hongkong this year. It is recorded in the plague history of Hongkong that the deadly scourge was imported here from Canton, and it is sincerely to be hoped that this may not have to be written of the no less deadly scourge of Cholera. When we think of the large passenger traffic between the two ports we can appreciate the difficulties under which the health authorities labour, but the news of the alarming outbreak at Canton, confirmed and substantiated as it is by the extraordinary precautions which the Chinese military and civil authorities in the city are taking to check the spread of the epidemic points plainly to the necessity for the exercise of the utmost vigilance with a view to protect the Colony from a new affliction.

An extract of meteorological observations made at the Hongkong Observatory during the month of June shows the average maximum temperature to have been 83.6 degrees, and the minimum 77.2 degrees. The rainfall for the month was 15.245 inches and we had 147.8 hours of sunshine.

THE FOREIGN POST OFFICES IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, July 13th.)

A matter of great interest to Hongkong is the revived report of the intention of the Chinese Government to join the Postal Union and to take over the foreign Post Offices in China. This would, of course, include the various British postal agencies of the Hongkong Post Office. Similar reports have been circulated and published before, but now it is categorically, though unofficially, announced that the Peking Government intends to take over the different foreign Post Offices in China together with their staffs of employés, foreign as well as Chinese. The Head Office is to be in Peking. It is further stated that the telegraph system is to be amalgamated with the post office system, as in England, and the work of both departments will be conducted in the same offices. There will be a special printing establishment for the manufacture of stamps, and a postal school is to be established in Peking for the training of Chinese for the service. Finally the report states that negotiations between the Chinese Government and the Foreign Ministers in Peking are in progress at the present time respecting this scheme. Our Tientsin correspondent, however, as the result of inquiries, informs us that the latter statement is without foundation. Possibly, he says, the Chinese Government may be intending to make the Powers interested a proposition on the subject, but this has not been done yet. If it were done, it is not likely that all the Powers would agree; indeed it is pretty certain that several of them would not.

Sooner or later, however, we are bound to hear more of this matter. It is one of the planks in the platform of the "Chinese Rights Recovery Party" in the capital. What, they argue, would be said in England, if the French, German, Russian, Belgian, Japanese and Chinese residents there proposed that their Governments should establish Post Offices in the principal English ports? No doubt a great deal would be said in England on the subject; but at present no analogy can be drawn between the two countries in this matter. When China is able to prove to the satisfaction of the Powers that she possesses an efficient postal administration, competent to deal satisfactorily with the foreign mails, it is unlikely that she will have much difficulty in inducing the Powers to close their establishments. Very few of them pay their way. The Chinese Government is doubtless aware that Great Britain and France formerly maintained their own post offices in the principal treaty ports of Japan. In 1871 Japan based her postal service on the Western model, and three years later joined the International Postal Union. By 1879 the service has been brought to such a state of efficiency that Great Britain consented to close the British Post Offices at Yokohama, Kobe and Nagasaki, and France followed that example a year later. We learn that among prominent officials in Peking the opinion prevails that it is of no use China joining the Postal Union until the foreign Post Offices have been abolished. That was not the attitude of Japan. She joined the Union while foreign post offices were functioning in her principal ports, and these served a useful purpose in furnishing examples and competition of a stimulating character for the native establishments. When Sir ROBERT HART at the banquet given by the China Association in London in his honour, expressed his confidence that

the coming years would show that China has been storing her energy to meet the new environment, the wonderful progress which is steadily being made with the organisation of the Chinese imperial postal administration might well have occupied a prominent place in his thoughts. There are now something like 600 head and branch offices and upwards of 2,000 postal agencies established throughout the empire, and an enormous amount of mail matter, both letters and parcels, is dealt with. As the efficiency of the service is increasingly demonstrated we can quite understand that the continued existence of the foreign post offices will be viewed more and more by the Rights Recovery Party as merely serving to keep raw a patch of irritation in the national self-consciousness of the Chinese people; but we fear the time has not yet arrived when those offices can be closed without injury to the interests of the foreign communities they serve.

SEDITIONARY NEWSPAPERS.

(Daily Press, 14th July.)

The recent prosecution of a British subject in Seoul for the publication of seditious newspapers in the vernacular has resulted in the issue by the British Government of Regulations for the control of British newspapers in Korea. These regulations provide that a register of newspapers entitled to British protection shall be maintained at the Consulate-General in Seoul, and a newspaper which is not registered shall not be deemed to be entitled to British protection as the property of a British subject. If the owner of a registered newspaper is not ordinarily resident in Korea, the name of some responsible British subject resident within the jurisdiction shall be registered as his agent for all purposes relating to these Regulations. The owner or agent, as the case may be, is deemed under these Regulations to be responsible for the publication of the newspaper and for all matters appearing therein. There is really nothing in these Regulations to which any one can take serious objection, and their appearance excites curiosity only because their operation is limited to Korea (though issued under the China and Korea Orders in Council), and because the occasion has only just arisen for their enactment. In fact there was no feature that we can recall in the recent prosecution which disclosed their necessity. The complainant did not deny that he was the proprietor of the offending vernacular papers, and he was therefore amenable to British law. But the whole difference these Regulations makes is that if newspapers owned by British subjects are not in future duly registered at the Consulate they will not have the benefit of British protection, but must take their chance with the laws of Korea. It has been made abundantly plain that the British authorities will not countenance the publication of seditious matter in Korea.

Those who have been watching recent events in India will not have failed to notice that the mind of the British Government has been greatly exercised of late by the mischief wrought in the Indian Empire by seditious publications; and the Korea Order in Council of 1907 and the stringent Press Law recently enacted for India evidence a noteworthy change of attitude on the part of the British Government. In India the Government has been extremely slow to take effective measures to suppress seditious publications, simply because such prosecutions under a comparatively mild law have proved not merely ineffective but

they have actually increased the mischief they were intended to suppress. It is declared that an appearance in a police court on a charge of sedition in India was a certain prelude to prosperity. Notoriety sent up the circulation of the newspaper and as sentences were light they constituted no great hardship. It has proved a terrible mistake—the mistake of judging the Oriental by the standard of the Occidental. All Orientals have an extraordinary veneration for the printed word, and the wildest charges published in a newspaper are, as a rule, unquestioningly accepted as gospel. The result has been that the incessant and widespread propagation of incitements to violence in India has brought about an extremely grave situation. Recent events have clearly shown the folly of regarding incendiary articles as “mere froth.” They are, as LORD MORLEY has said “froth stained with bloodshed.” LORD MINTO in speaking on this subject quite recently said:—“We all know, at least everyone who watches the daily story of Indian political life knows, that the lines of Indian thought are changing, that embryo national aspirations are beginning to take shape, and it will be a bad day for the British Raj and a bad day for the people of this country if we ever allow the belief to spread that doctrines of murderous anarchy are even indirectly associated with the growth of those ambitions which British education has done so much to encourage.” With this experience of seditious publications in India we can understand the British Governments, sympathy with Japan in her efforts to prevent the sowing of literary poison in Korea. No question of the legitimate freedom of the Press is involved in the measures adopted, either in Korea or India

CHINESE APPRECIATION OF BAZAARS.

(Daily Press, July 15.)

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR rightly described the Bazaar which he opened last Friday as an historical event. Undoubtedly the occasion is worth more than passing notice. It is not merely an effort, in the highest degree praiseworthy, to raise money with the laudable object of alleviating the wholesale suffering and distress caused by the floods in South China, but it is an appreciation of Western methods. It is a tribute to the wisdom of the Occidental, and in paying this compliment to the West the Oriental does not dishonour himself.

There are people, of course, who cavil at Bazaars; people whose ultra moral sensitiveness or parsimony regard them as immoral or dishonest, but most folks are content to ignore a discussion of the ethical considerations involved and to accept the institution with all its faults as the only method of appealing to the populace when money is required for deserving causes which offers the greatest prospect of success. Bazaars might not be necessary if the financial result desired could be obtained otherwise. Subscription lists go a long way—and, after all, where a community is moved with compassion for those in distress there is nothing more effective than the direct appeal to their sympathy and generosity—but the Bazaar is something that may be regarded as supplementary. When people have given their quantum to any deserving object they feel that they have done their duty, but in spite of having contributed so much of their means for sweet charity's sake, they show their susceptibilities to the subtle fascinations of a Bazaar, with its attractive surroundings, its charm of feminine society,

its irresistible appeals by fair women, and the fun and good humour which seem to pervade the place when women set out to please and men are content to buy what they don't want. The result is that they are led to give twice when they only contemplated giving once. In this way the enterprise, must be regarded as extremely valuable and one which should not be neglected where important issues are at stake and where the lack of money is fatal to the achievement of the objects in view.

This Bazaar, then, is interesting not merely as one of the means of swelling the Flood Relief Fund, but its most striking feature is that it is an expression of Chinese approval of some Western ideas. Not only is it the first occasion on which Chinese have attempted a Bazaar on the lines which most of us know too well, but consequently it is the first time that Chinese ladies have taken their part in such a function. Naturally it spells change and doubtless progress. It means that the members of the fair sex in this part of the Orient—and we do not speak of Hongkong alone, Canton having decided to follow the good example—are likely to take in future a greater part in social life, and to emerge from that seclusion and retirement which, though making for a certain refinement, does not make for the highest enlightenment—and suffragists and women's rights apart—there are few right minded men who wish to keep their women folks in ignorance or semi-ignorance. Therefore this innovation may be regarded not as an additional amusement for idle women but as an entrance into greater social activities which should have an educative effect on the women themselves and a progressive influence on the race leading to an acceptance of fresh ideas and to a mental breadth which can only result in good to all.

SHANGHAI DOCKS.

(Daily Press, July 16th.)

The result of the working of the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd., for the past year is not very satisfactory reading for the shareholders. Considering the high hopes that had been held out to investors by the promoters of the amalgamation, a dividend of five per cent, following on one of three per cent for the previous year, and that notoriously made out of whatat best can only be denominated sweepings, is but a poor thing to show from the shipping of the second largest port in the Far East. Still even the bereaved shareholder may take heart on discovering that the management has been pulling itself together, that many of its extravagances have been reduced, and business methods introduced where lordly indifference had been the prevailing spirit. To commence its new year, the company finds itself with Tls. 300,000 on deposit in hard cash, and with a balance to the credit of current account of three-quarters of a lac besides. True this is not a satisfactory method of investing the capital, but looking on the state of confusion presented last year and considering the long depression of trade that marked the year, this is probably the wisest, as well as the safest, way of putting it momentarily by. In view of the tightness of money in the Northern Port, and the very serious strain placed on the shoulders of the community by the abnormal depression in the value of, not only the Dock shares, but of all other genuine investment stocks, it became a matter of necessity to arrange for a dividend, if it could possibly be done without compromising the position of the Company; the arrangement was so

far satisfactory, that not only was it provided out of actual profits of the year, but that it left untouched the other resources of the undertaking. On the other hand, and this was the most serious part of the position, and one that must be faced before long, the payment of a dividend prevented the directors making any provision for depreciation. It is quite true that the plant had by ordinary repairs and renewals been kept in going order, but none know better than the directors themselves that the plant is antiquated, and antiquated to such a degree as to very seriously interfere with the earning power of the Company, and has been very heavily handicapping it for the last three or four years, in undertaking contracts. When the affair was transformed into a limited company a fortunate sale of a steamer that it had salvaged and repaired placed the Directors in a position to effect very extensive renewals, while at the same time paying a handsome dividend to the shareholders; unfortunately from too sanguine hopes of the continuance of their good fortune, the amount accruing was altogether expended in paying an inflated dividend, with the result, foreseen by a few of the wiser of the shareholders, that ever since the affair has been handicapped. The explanation offered by the Chairman, that they kept their present machinery up to date by effecting repairs when required, was by no means a sufficient reply to the complaint. Still, looking back at the circumstances of the year, and the crisis through which the entire trade of China has been passing, we may fairly congratulate the management on having replaced the Company in a sound condition, from which on the first symptom of a return of better trade conditions, it will be at once in a position to undertake extensive contracts. After all, and this it is important to bear in mind in discussing the future, the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Company has no outside liabilities whatever, has a considerable amount of tangible outside assets, and so far from being hampered by overdrafts at its bankers, has actually, in addition to upwards of a million taels worth of stock in hand actually paid for, nearly four hundred thousand taels of hard money with its bankers. It is rare, in the Far East at all events, that a company should find its interest account stand at the right side, yet in this case, it has actually brought in a substantial amount to the credit of the year's accounts.

Of course, in the ordinary course of business, this is not an altogether satisfactory position of affairs; the Dock and Engineering Company is fundamentally an industrial and not a financial concern, and the Directors should see that its resources are employed in its business, instead of being sunk in outside investments. The fact of the matter has, however, been that owing to the extraordinary financial crisis through which the trade of China has been passing, there was practically no business forthcoming; and as money came in for run-out contracts, there was practically no way of investing it. It is only now that the worst of the storm has past that Shanghai is beginning to realise how very serious has been the result, and how very narrowly a panic has been avoided. The shrinkage in the selling price of the Company's shares has been a contributing cause of the general depression, and has undeniably added to the burdens that had to be provided for, so that even a five per cent dividend and the knowledge that the Dock Company was safe, and had earning power on the revival of trade, came as a relief in a period of almost universal gloom. Unfortu-

nately the last month's weather has been throughout China markedly inclement. Kwangtung, which till now has escaped the famines and distress which have marked other parts of China, has suffered heavily from inundations, and a more or less extensive famine is threatened. More serious it probably is that the regions of the lower Yangtse and Yellow River, which for the last two years have been suffering from famines and scarcity brought on by the excessive flooding of the fertile plains, are this year again troubled with an excess of rain. It is true that a large part of these recurrent inundations must be referred directly to the insane folly of the people themselves, who may be said to have accomplished within the last ten years the final deforestation of the rising grounds. The worst feature of this wretched business is that the Government, though often warned as to the consequences, has not taken a solitary measure to put a stop to the waste going on under its eyes. But, however, this may be, the fact remains that for the future agriculture in these regions, formerly the most productive in the Empire, must for the future always be carried on with the depressing certainty of recurring famines, whether from excessive floods or complete absence of rain. For the last two years the purchasing power of China has sensibly diminished owing to these causes, and though this was not the sole cause of the financial crisis, which has not by any means been confined to China, it has certainly aggravated its incidence in Shanghai especially. One cause in these affairs always reacts on another. Financial troubles in America have reduced the demand for silver with a corresponding fall in price, and cheap silver in China rendered sales of imports, unless at a heavy loss, impossible. Famine on the other hand used up the products available for export, and the result was a stagnating market; and as imports, ordered during better conditions, came on, they were found unsaleable. A stagnant market called for less tonnage, and steamers instead of carrying freight were laid up, and so as a natural consequence the Docking and Repairing business fell off; so the depression went round, every country on the face of the earth feeling it in turn, and now we find it reacting on England, where the new Chancellor of the Exchequer has to lament over his lost millions. May we hope that the certainly more satisfactory position of the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Company may be taken as an indication of the turn of the financial tide; and an earnest of approaching more favourable conditions of trade. This is the useful lesson to be learned from the vicissitudes of this, one of the most important of the foreign industrial undertakings of the Far East.

RACE DISTINCTIONS.

(Daily Press, 17th July.)

In one form and another the question of the position of the coloured races in the world *vis à vis* those of European or American origin has been coming to the front, and there can be no doubt that it will have to be faced, however desirous some may be to put off indefinitely the consideration of what is undoubtedly a very difficult problem. Though it may be unpleasant to people who have been brought up in the accepted idea that the white races are essentially superior to the coloured and that the domination of the whole has been given to the former, the fact that the coloured races are coming to the front is being forced upon the attention of all who will not refuse to see, in a way

which calls for serious reflection. As long as the question (so far as the generality of people cared to trouble about it at all) was between the downright blacks and the downright whites, the matter appeared to be extremely simple. Nature herself seems to have made a mark of separation between the two classes such as cannot be ignored. It is easy to perceive that an ebony native of Zanzibar is not likely to amalgamate socially or otherwise with a person of European or American descent. But the distinction is by no means so clear between the large number of people who are somewhat uncomplimentarily called "yellow" and let us say, the inhabitants of some of the southern parts of Europe. Some of the darker Italians or Spaniards might be put by the side of Chinese and Japanese, and an artist in painting them, would have to use more of his dark colours for the Europeans than for the Asiatics—so that a mere division of the human race as to colour must, as time goes on, fail, the distinction being only one of degree. More broad territorial distinctions also, such as that of Asiatics as against Europeans are equally unsatisfactory. It is true there are certain characteristics which are found more frequently among Asiatics than Europeans and *vice versa*, but markedly Asiatic qualities and their corresponding faults, are often found among Europeans, while the converse is equally true, namely that qualities which are looked upon as essentially European are found among some Asiatics. Until recent times the truer line of demarcation, namely that of civilization, was usually taken up to mark off the difference between the coloured and the whites. The former were looked upon as uncivilized; the latter as being blessed with the only civilization that was worth considering as such. This good old-fashioned view has happily become a thing almost entirely of the past. The notion that civilization after the European pattern was the only one worth considering as such would hardly be found among any persons with the slightest pretence to education in the present day—and even if it were, too much has been taken from our own civilization by nations with whom we have come into contact, to make it possible any longer to take up this complaisant and comfortable, if somewhat patronising attitude. This is more or less the case both in India and China, and of course is markedly so with respect to Japan. While that country is steadily making progress in all that belongs to our civilization and is adding it to all that is valuable in her own, it is impossible to draw a strong line of demarcation between the Japanese and European nations—nor would there be any attempt to do so except for the difference of colour; but, at that point, a distinction is undoubtedly drawn, however the fact may be politely ignored, and is likely to continue for long years, if not decades or even centuries to come. There can be no question that the difficulty which recently arose in California with respect to the Japanese going to the public schools was greater than was generally supposed. The school question was, no doubt, mixed up with the more acute question of Japanese immigration and competition with local labour, but the colour element entered largely into the popular view of the subject and had much to do with the strong feeling that was evoked. Happily by good sense and wise diplomacy the crisis was got over; but the difficulty was rather evaded than overcome—and the outcome did not go far towards solving the main problem which was brought prominently to

notice—namely how the white and dark races—more immediately how Europeans and Asiatics can find a *modus vivendi* which will be just and reasonable to both. Like most large political problems this question is likely to be solved by circumstances rather than upon any general principles, and in point of fact the solution has been found upon a modified scale in more directions than one. In India and China, and, of course, still more so in Japan, the line of demarcation between European and "native" is far less strongly marked than it was in former times. Common interests and a better understanding of each other's political and individual characters have worked this result, and it is reasonable to hope that, as time goes on, it will be found that the dark and the light races in the world, though necessarily different in many respects, can still work together with mutual respect for one another's views and feelings and even what on either side may appear to be prejudices on the part of the other. This end is most likely to be attained by a frank recognition that there is a difference between them, and by thus avoiding, on the one side the error of certain enthusiasts who hold that all men are alike; and on the other side the equally mistaken idea that because the white and the coloured races differ in many respects, they must always be in a state of antagonism, and cannot find a means of working together with mutual respect and for their common good.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PLAGUE EPIDEMIC.

(Daily Press, July 18th.)

Given a plague epidemic in a city of mixed Asiatic population—Hindus, Burmese, Malays, Chinese, Filipinos and Japanese—which section of such a community would be likely to suffer most? It is not difficult for anyone with experience of the various Asiatic races to return the correct answer to this question. The section likely to suffer most would be the Chinese. Experience indeed has proved it to a considerable extent and that being so, all experience that emphasises the reasons of this greater liability to plague may be profitably studied by the leaders of Chinese public opinion in Hongkong and elsewhere. Our thoughts are directed to this question by reading some remarks on the incidence of plague at Rangoon. The Chinese population in that city is small, but the Health Officer points out that they have suffered more severely this year, and last year also, than the Hindus and Burmese. Why is it? "The reasons," he says, "are obvious to those engaged in plague work." It is the same old story with which we have long been familiar in Hongkong. The Rangoon Health Officer writes:—"The Chinese live in houses which are often divided up by the occupants into small very dark and ill-ventilated cubicles. The houses are packed with merchandise and with rubbish of all descriptions, and are ideal places from the rats' point of view. Chinese people very rarely report the presence of rats in their houses, even when dead rats have been discovered. Further, when a case of plague occurs the patient is almost invariably removed to another house before death, and it is with the greatest difficulty that information can be got showing where the disease was contracted. This attitude of passive resistance is adopted not from fear, but simply because the Chinaman dislikes having his business interfered with by the Plague staff cleaning his house, or trying to rid it of rats."

In Hongkong it is generally recognised that the greatest hope of success in the fight against the plague scourge lies in the enlistment of the co-operation of the Chinese people themselves. They have it practically in their own hands to rid the Colony for ever of this annually recurring affliction. The Health Officer of Rangoon recognises that this co-operation is essential also in the small Chinatown in the city over which he has sanitary supervision; and we draw attention to this experience in Rangoon in the hope that it may be profitably employed as an object lesson by all concerned in Hongkong in teaching the Chinese people the elementary principles of hygiene. It used to be an article of faith in the West that in the East, where the warmth of the climate makes cleanliness more immediately necessary than in colder climates, cleanliness was indeed closely allied to godliness, the idea being derived from the fact that the Jewish law, and Mohammedan, which in some things copies it, is filled with bathings, purifications and other rites of a like nature. But whatever force this may have in the case of peoples who rule their lives by the Jewish or Mohammedan law, it has none whatever among the Chinese in South China where cleanliness seems to be regarded as a sin rather than a duty.

There is one other point about the plague experience of Rangoon on which we may venture a few words. It is the fact that "there is a tendency every year for plague to increase about the end of May or in June." This corresponds with the experience in Hongkong, but in this Colony after June the epidemic rapidly subsides. That apparently is not the case in Rangoon. In 1906 the heaviest plague months were June, July and August. What the explanation of the diminished returns in Hongkong may be after the month of June has passed we are unable to say, but a theory suggested to us by a leading Chinese resident may be worth considering by the responsible authorities. When plague first broke out in Hongkong a suggestion was made that the source of infection was not improbably the unflushed drains. That was before the discovery was made that the rat flea was the infecting agent, and we believe some estimate was at the time given by the Public Works Department of the cost of flushing these drains—an estimate running to about three lacs of dollars. The drains still remain unflushed during the dry season, and the suggestion now made to us covers the question as to what extent these drains form breeding places for rats and for the germination of the plague bacilli. We are informed that during the heavy rains in June, when these drains are thoroughly flushed, large numbers of rats are washed down to the sea and drowned. To what extent this may account for the diminution of plague after the month of June is a question we must leave to the consideration of the Sanitary authorities. It certainly is a curious coincidence. In the months of October, November, December and January the rainfall is very meagre. In the last two months of the year it does not usually average an inch a month, and the malodorous condition of the drains in the Colony does not require to be dwelt upon. In January sporadic cases of plague are reported and as the months pass the list of cases grows, the epidemic reaching its height in May or June. Then come the heavy rains, and, later, the total disappearance of plague.

If, however, we take last year's plague total and rainfall statistics and compare the figures with the returns for the present year we cannot say that we find very strong

support for the theory. Last year Hongkong had a comparatively light list of plague cases—not more than 250 for the whole year. This year we have already more than a thousand. Now the rainfall statistics show that there was less rain in the dry season 1906-7 than in the dry season 1907-8, and if the theory of the drain origin of plague were sound there should have been more plague cases last year than this when there was more flushing of the drains. As a matter of fact, down to May 1st last year only 13 cases were reported; this year 117 had been reported by that date. But now we have to consider the rainfall for the month of May. In May 1907 the recorded rainfall was 11.280 inches, this year it was only 1.825 inches, and in this one month the plague total went up from 117 to 589. In May last year the increase was from 13 to 55. But when we add that the increase was even greater in the wet month of June both this year and last, any argument in favour of the theory we have ventilated is heavily discounted. Nor do we find much support for the suggestion in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the recrudescence of plague in 1906, namely that it was to be accounted for by the fact that the hours of sunshine for the first three months of the year were considerably below the average. This year the total for the first three months is almost exactly the same as for the first quarter of last year—but the plague statistics are vastly different! The theory is generally entertained that the epidemic increases in May and June because the rains compel the people to keep within their houses more than at other times, but the absence of rain this year in May concurrently with a large increase in the number of plague cases proves this theory to be of no more value than the others. August and September are the wettest months of the year, yet plague after June steadily diminishes in Hongkong towards complete extinction. The only certain thing that can be said about the plague is that it has its origin in insanitary conditions and, without having successfully connected the appearance of plague directly with unflushed drains or a shortage of sunshine, we come back again to the point which requires to be constantly emphasised that it rests largely with the Chinese themselves to exterminate the source by co-operating with the sanitary authorities in maintaining domestic cleanliness. That seems the only hope of salvation.

SUICIDE OF DR. CROSS.

Dr. Cross, for many years a medical missionary in China, committed suicide at Ipoh, Straits Settlement, on the 5th inst. by swallowing a large quantity of carbolic acid. A painful feature of the affair is that he committed the deed in the presence of his wife, having suddenly jumped up from a sleepless bed, and though Mrs. Cross made a determined effort to wrest the bottle from his grasp she was too late, and her husband was dead in ten minutes.

The sad affair cast a gloom over Ipoh, where the deceased was very popular. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Cross and her children, two of whom are at school in England.

Dr. Cross, who had been in practice in Singapore for about a year before going to Ipoh in March, 1907, was a popular medical man. A Scotsman by birth, Dr. Cross came to the East as a medical missionary and laboured for many years in China. He had a perfect knowledge of several Chinese dialects and in a remarkable collection of Eastern curios he possessed many decorated emblems in Chinese of the esteem in which he was held.

THE FLOOD FUND BAZAAR.

OPENED BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

The Bazaar organised by the local Chinese to raise funds for the sufferers by the recent floods on the West and North Rivers was opened on July 11th under happy auspices by His Excellency the Governor and the first venture of the Chinese to raise money by this approved or disapproved method was successfully launched. Certainly it had all the elements of success. It had a community in sympathy with the objects, a community not limited to one race, and it had an energetic committee every member of which put the greatest enthusiasm into the work. It might have been thought that the lack of experience in such undertakings would have militated against the best results being obtained, but as a matter of fact the novelty of the enterprise and the curiosity which it aroused was more than sufficient to counterbalance the disadvantages accruing from inexperience. The Chinese ladies embraced the opportunity to emulate their western sisters by officiating at the Bazaar and they came forward in large numbers indeed, and as the committee was composed of something like 300 Chinese gentlemen it will be readily seen how largely interested the Chinese community were in the innovation. Moreover their efforts were generously supported by liberal donations from European and Chinese firms and the display made in the huge matchbox was extremely creditable for an initial effort in a rather difficult undertaking.

The Bazaar, composed of some seventy stalls, was accommodated in a huge matchbox, 400 feet in length by 80 feet wide, situated near Shektonsui Market. A tower marked the principal entrance and other towers were erected at intervals round the structure. Considering the haste with which the work was carried out the result was very good indeed. The interior looked very attractive. There were not many articles that were typically Chinese, the pictures, the floral work, and basket work being the only things that belonged to the Flowery Land. The remainder of the stalls was devoted to fancy goods, the handiwork of Chinese school girls, to silver ware, to provisions, and to refreshments. Nevertheless there were articles which most people would be tempted to buy and it is hoped that the fair stallholders will have the satisfaction of disposing of most of the wares under their charge.

The opening ceremony was attended by a large gathering which included a number of Europeans. His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Captain Mitchell Taylor, A.D.C. and Mr. Brackenbury, private secretary, was met at the entrance by the members of the Committee, at the head of which were Mr. Fung Wa Chun (Chairman), Mr. Ho Kom Tong (vice chairman), the Hon. Wei Yuk, Mr. Lau Chu pak, Messrs Wong Kom Fuk, Lam Tsz Kong, Ma Ying Pu, Leung Tui Chee, Luk King Nam, Chan Kang Yu, Tam Hok Po, Ng Hon Chi, Chan Hai, Lai Kwa Pui, Yun Yan Tsun, and others. Among the Europeans were H. E. General Broadwood, Rear Admiral Stokes, His Lordship Bishop Poxson, accompanied by Father Spada, the Hon. Mr. Chatham, Dr. Atkinson, Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, Hon. Mr. Irving, Dr. Willer, (American Consul General), Dr. Voretzsch (German Consul General), Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Chatham, Madame Volpicelli, Madame Marty, etc.

In calling upon His Excellency to open the bazaar,

Mr. Fung Wa Chun said: Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen. I have the honour as well as the great pleasure to ask you to open the first charity bazaar that the Chinese public spirit has organized. I do so however, with some considerable trepidation, as this is absolutely the first bazaar that we Chinese here in Hongkong have ever attempted. Naturally we are diffident and backward in many things, and we almost despaired of success. But, with Your Excellency's kind presence and encouragement, we hope our weak efforts may realize a substantial sum of money for the relief of the poor sufferers in the recent floods. (Hear, hear). I do not wish to mar the present jovial occasion by recounting their intense sufferings in order to plead their cause. I leave all that to

the imagination and the well known charity of the Hongkong public. Before asking you, Sir, to perform the opening ceremony, I desire to tender to you, the sincere and respectful thanks of the Committee, for your kind sympathy and consideration in coming amongst us this afternoon, and taking the leading part in the ceremony (applause). I desire also to thank the Communities of Hongkong, especially the European, for their liberal donations and contributions to the bazaar (applause). Now, Your Excellency, we are ready to display our wares, and are more ready still to receive fancy prices for them (laughter). I will call upon you, therefore, with one pull to loosen the curtains of this temple of splendour, and at the same time the heart strings, and what is more important still, the purse strings of a rich and munificent assembly (Applause).

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR said—Ladies and Gentlemen, we have heard of the terrible distress which has overtaken the neighbouring provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi and which has been caused by recent floods. Rivers have burst their embankments and carried devastation over great areas. Great numbers of the population have been drowned and others have been rendered homeless and foodless, their stores swept away and their crops destroyed. In this calamity the leading Chinese members of our community have come forward to help the sufferers of their own race with a generosity and a thoroughness for which they are justly renowned. It is a very striking testimony to the confidence which is felt in the Tung Wah Committee of Hongkong that the charitable institutions of Canton have asked them to undertake the task of collecting subscriptions from Chinese residents abroad, in California, Australia, the Straits, and Java and that those communities are ready to respond and entrust their funds to the Tung Wah Committee here, confident that they will be well applied under their direction. (Applause). We in this British Colony may be and I am sure we all are proud of the world-wide reputation for integrity which our Chinese fellow subjects have established for themselves. Their unfailing resource has prompted them to adopt a Western idea of a bazaar in order to raise funds. Hitherto I have been inclined to regard bazaars as one of the prominent vices of Western civilisation, (laughter) but it is a benevolent vice and is not open to the same condemnation as some other Western methods which have of late, I regret to say, found favour in the Far East. Its adaptation to the conditions of Chinese Society marks, I think, a very striking departure, and in opening this bazaar to-day I feel I am privileged to perform an historical act. Those of us who are from Western lands are wont to regard our women as foremost in all that pertains to the relief of suffering and distress. We call them, and rightly, our mine-stering angels. We look to them to organise and direct campaigns against the pockets of the wealthy and to extract contributions therefrom by the arts of suasion and the virtues of insistence. To-day for the first time Chinese ladies are coming forward to assume the role of their Western sisters and to publicly play the part of promoters of charitable undertakings. I wish them every success, and I am confident that they will achieve it (applause). I trust that this bazaar to which so many have with equal generosity contributed will add a large sum to the already magnificent fund which has been raised by the generous and sympathetic gentlemen of the Chinese community of Hongkong. I shall now have much pleasure in opening this Bazaar (Applause).

The GOVERNOR amid cheers then pulled the silken cords and the bazaar was considered opened. Before he preceded on his round of the stalls under the guidance of Mr. Fung Wa Chun, His Excellency received a buttonhole from Miss NG SHI HENG, daughter of the late Mr. Ng Tung shan, which she neatly placed in his coat.

The business of buying and selling was then proceeded with and the entertainment in the theatre was also commenced. The Bazaar continues for seven consecutive days.

It has been found that to run the bazaar for twelve hours was too great a tax on those engaged in the work, and instead of remaining open till 2 a.m. it will close at 11 p.m. from to-day.

It is gratifying to record that the first bazaar undertaken by Chinese has been such an unqualified success. At least \$60,000 has been realised which is perhaps a little more than was anticipated, and this will be disbursed in rice and necessary articles for the relief of those rendered destitute by the disastrous floods.

AN INTERESTING CANTON RUMOUR.

Our Canton correspondent writes:—A rumour is current in Canton that the Japanese Government intends to donate to the flood relief fund the 200,000 taels exacted as indemnity in the "Tatsu-Maru" case, together with a further important sum. If the rumour is true it will go a long way towards removing the boycott instituted so successfully against Japanese goods.

In connexion with the relief funds, Mr. Fox, our Acting British Consul-General, has been very energetic in promoting the subscription raised among the British community, and the amount bids fair to reach an important sum. All the foreign consuls are urging their nationals to subscribe.

The Chinese are busy on their side and the theatre guild has contributed over \$11,000 through performances given on behalf of the fund.

BAZAAR PROPOSED AT CANTON.

The leading citizens of Canton have been so impressed with the success of the Bazaar in Hongkong that it is proposed to make a similar innovation in Canton. The Self-Governing Society has taken the matter in hand and it is expected that the project will take shape in a very short time. Should this undertaking be successful it will indicate a greater step in the path of progress than even the Hongkong Bazaar with its breaking away from old custom, at least so far as the ladies are concerned.

FLOODS IN THE NORTH.

Authentic news of the extent of damage done to the railway through floods is still difficult of attainment, the "Hankow Daily News" says, but it is generally recognised that many weeks must elapse before thorough communication to Peking can be thoroughly restored. Meanwhile the journey of a coolie who arrived on the 5th inst. with letters from Chih Kung-shan will prove interesting to our readers as showing the present difficulty of access to Hankow's pet summer resort. Leaving Chih Kung-shan on the 30th ult. he proceeded by train to Kiangohoei, beyond which he was informed no trains were running, three bridges being down. A short journey overland brought him to the edge of the flooded country where he found no difficulty in obtaining a sampan. The waters were running swiftly and progress was by no means fast, a long detour in addition having to be made. He surmises that he actually covered 300 li in the sampan and the journey occupied 4 days until terra firma at Kilometre 50 was reached. Throughout the inland sea voyage the depth of water found was never less than two feet and at times, of course, a great deal more. We understand that letters sent through the Railway Administration have reached Hankow in two and a half days.

HALF YEARLY DIVIDENDS.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK.

We are officially authorised to state that subject to audit, the Directors of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation will recommend at the forthcoming meeting:—Dividend of £2 per share; add to the Reserve Fund \$500,000; write off Bank Premises account \$250,000; carry forward about \$2,000,000.

LAND COMPANIES.

An interim dividend of \$3.50 per share for the half year is announced by the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co. Ltd.

An interim dividend of \$2 per share is announced by the West Point Building Company, Ltd.

A dividend of 6 per cent. for the half year has been declared by the Shanghai Land Investment Company.

SHANGHAI GAS CO.

The Shanghai Gas Co. Ltd. has notified that a dividend of 7 per cent. will be paid for the half-year ended June 30th.

PLAGUE WORK IN HONGKONG.

The following description of plague work in Hongkong forms an annexe to the annual report of the Principal Civil Medical Officer, Dr. Atkinson, and the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Clark:—

There are at present four Plague Inspectors for the City of Victoria, and one for Kowloon. There are eleven coloured Foremen Interpreters, one for each District of the City of Victoria and one for Kowloon, who supervise the work of the rat-catchers, assist in the house-to-house cleansing, and act as Interpreters to the Inspectors, where necessary. There are four gangs in the City of Victoria each consisting of one Chinese foreman, one artisan and seven coolies, while Kowloon has a gang consisting of a Chinese Foreman, two artisans and ten coolies.

During non-epidemic periods the whole of this staff is engaged in house-to-house cleansing work, about ten houses or thirty floors a day are dealt with, and each tenant receives three days' notice, on a form in English and Chinese, requiring him to thoroughly cleanse his premises. On the day fixed the gang attends in the street in which the houses are situated, and supplies hot water and soap solution to the tenants, and cleans out all empty floors, basements, etc., the tenants themselves cleaning out their own premises. The refuse turned out during this cleansing is removed by the gang to the nearest dust boat. The soap solution is also used by the tenants for washing their bed-boards, etc., in the street or on the verandah.

When the cleansing work is completed by the tenants the Inspector visits every floor, accompanied by the Foreman Interpreter and some of the coolies with a bucket of Pesterine (liquid fuel) which is applied to the sides and corners of the floors, and to the skirtings and round the partitions of cubicles, and the corners of the stairs, by means of the mops, under the personal supervision of the Inspector. Pesterine is a black treacle-like liquid which stains woodwork and it was decided therefore at the latter end of the year to substitute for it a mixture of equal parts of Cyllin and Petrol diluted with water to 1 in 200. This mixture acts both as a pulicide and a germicide and has the advantage of not staining the flooring and skirtings. The solution has to be freshly mixed each day as it undergoes certain chemical changes, the nature of which has not yet been worked out. At this visit when the floors are clear of furniture, etc., the Inspector makes special note of the condition of the ground surfaces, the absence of gratings to drain-inlets and ventilators, and the presence of rat-runs, and all these matters are dealt with by legal notice at once. The tenants are invited, by notice in the form attached, to allow their bedding and spare clothing to be steamed, in order to destroy fleas and other vermin and their ova, and compensation is offered for all articles damaged. Should a case of Plague occur in a house, the Kaifong (Street Committee) of the District are informed, and the floor on which the case has occurred is disinfected by the Plague staff, the walls being sprayed with corrosive sublimate, and the floor and the bed boards washed with the mixture of Cyllin and Petrol; crude carbolic acid is poured into the rat-runs, which are then filled up with cement; and the clothing and bedding is sent to the Disinfecting Station to be steamed. The remaining floors of the infected house are cleansed by the tenants in the same manner as in the house-to-house cleansing. Should there be any ceilings or stair-linings in the infected house they are removed and compensation is paid for them, if the case has been duly reported, while illegalities are dealt with by notice. The compensation is, in the case of Chinese, assessed separately by the Kaifong of the district and by the Plague Inspector, and their assessments are dealt with by a Committee of the Sanitary Board. The Kaifong are appointed by the Government on the nomination of the Tung Wa Hospital for the City of Victoria, and in Kowloon by the inhabitants of Kowloon Point, Yaumati and Hunghom respectively.

Any spare time at the disposal of the Plague Inspectors is occupied in paying special visits to houses in which cases of Plague have occurred in the previous season, with a

view to seeing that they are free of rat-runs and provided with impervious ground surfaces. The Chinese have established Public Dispensaries and also District Plague Hospitals which in the City of Victoria are managed by a Committee of which the Registrar General and the two Chinese Members of the Sanitary Board are members; in Kowloon, a local Committee manages the Dispensary and the Hospital. These institutions are supported by voluntary contributions, and each is in charge of a Licentiate of the Hongkong College of Medicine who sees out-patients at the Dispensary, performs vaccinations, visits patients in their own homes, and treats patients in the District Hospital. Cases of infectious disease are notified by these licentiates to the nearest District Sanitary Office, and if the case is one of Plague, the patients may be treated in the District Hospital.

"ATTACKING THE INTEGRITY OF THE BENCH."

ANOTHER SUPREME COURT INCIDENT.

In the course of his summing up in a case at the Supreme Court on July 17th, His Honour the Chief Justice, mentioned that Counsels were the best abused men in the world.

His Lordship said—Gentlemen, I feel the same spirit seems to have seized on one of the learned counsels. I am not going to say anything at all harsh, but there was a suggestion thrown out that I had not decided with equity.

Mr. Pollock—I am very sorry I cannot hear.

His Lordship—What I am going to say is this. There was a suggestion which I cannot pass over, although I am not going to emphasise it. The Bench knows perfectly well what the joy of a fight really is. Judges know perfectly well that when you have had a long case of fighting for your firm or clients a certain obsession comes over the brain, and certain expressions are dropped that should not be taken at their full meaning. I think I am quite expressing the views of learned counsel when I say that "everything in Denmark is right." Having cleared up this I say—

Mr. Pollock—I am sorry I could not hear what fell from your Lordship.

His Lordship—I beg your pardon. I said I felt sure I was expressing your views when I said that "nothing was wrong in the state of Denmark," which was the expression used in one of the newspapers.

Mr. Pollock—Well, my Lord, what I have said I have said; and I don't retract or withdraw anything.

His Lordship—I had hoped that learned counsel would allow me to put a golden bridge over the incident. The whole suggestion is ridiculous, and as a matter of fact, the suggestion that I decided cases in favour of one party instead of the other is unfounded. On looking at my notes it so happens that the first five or six points are decided in Mr. Pollock's favour. There was the question on which the issue was raised. I was in hopes that that question would be passed over, but I cannot pass over a question which attacks the integrity of the bench before a jury, and when the newspaper representatives are present.

CHINA'S COAL RESOURCES.

The United States Geological Survey has received a report from one of its officers on the coal resources of China, in which it is stated that China's present needs require the working of all the coal fields to the depths permitted by Chinese methods, and that when the Empire develops her industries the productive capacity of all possible coal mines will be taxed. With her enormous necessities, it is not believed that China will have coal to export. The total amount of coal in North China is estimated at about 605,000,000,000 tons. As far as is yet known the larger part of the coal of China is in the north.

It is reported that the restoration of China's navy will be carried out in eight years. Peiyang will be the northern area, Kwangtung the southern, and Nanyang the central.

CHINESE HEROES.

REWARDS FOR BRAVERY.

The bravery of the coxswain and crew of the steam launch "Kam Shun" in saving life at the wreck of the "Powan," already recognised by money awards, was on the 18th inst. recognised in a more permanent manner by the presentation of medals to the eight gallant Chinese seamen. The story of how, by their timely arrival and indefatigable efforts, they took off most of the passengers of the ill-fated steamer is already well known, and it is extremely gratifying to find that the Chinese community appreciate so highly the noble work of the men of their own race. The silk banner for the owner and the medals and money for the coxswain and crew were subscribed for by the Chinese community, and the presentation of these was made on Saturday afternoon. H.E. the Governor was prevented by pressure of official business from attending, but the Registrar-General, the Hon. Mr. E. A. Irving, undertook the duty, at the request of His Excellency, of presenting the awards. The interesting ceremony attracted a large number of Chinese, but it was regrettable that so few Europeans were present. Among those present were The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, C.M.G., Messrs. Ho Kom Tong, Lau Chu Pak, S. W. Tso, Chau Siu-ki, Wong Fa-lung, Li Shau-hin, Tam Hok-po (Chairman, Tung Wa Hospital), Ng Hon Chi, Chan Lok-chuen, Cheung Cheung-chi, Tsan Tin-shan, Francisco Tse-yat, Siu Yuen-fai, Cheuk-hing, Heung Chi-leung, Cheung Shi-kai, W. E. Clarke, Li Po-kwai, Mok Man-cheung, Capt. T. P. Hall, Leung Pui-chi, Li Man-ohi, Kwok Yiu-woon, Tam Tsz-kong Tse Tat-choy, and Simon Tse-yan.

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI opened the proceedings. He said—Mr. Irving,—Sir, I have been asked to introduce to you, the owner, coxswain and crew of the steam launch "Kam Shun," and to request you to be so good as to present them, on behalf of the leading members of the Chinese community with an embroidered silk banner, one gold and seven silver medals accompanied with gifts of small sums of money. I have very great pleasure in so doing, for I consider that a more gallant and successful act in life-saving has never been witnessed within the waters of the Colony than that performed by the master of the "Kam Shun" and his crew on the 8th day of June last. I need not recount in detail the terrible disaster that overtook the ill-fated vessel "Powan" on the night of the 8th ultimo, as the incident is doubtless still fresh in your memory, and the mind of the public. I shall simply allude to the one bright spot amidst the gloom of that deplorable catastrophe, and that is the comparatively few lives lost, largely owing to the bravery and promptitude in life-rescuing shown by the coxswain and crew of the "Kam Shun." The "Kam Shun" was the first vessel that reached the "Powan" before it sank, and by its timely and most valuable aid alone, about 130 out of something like 200 persons on board were successfully rescued from a watery grave. I have been informed that the assistance rendered was not unattended with considerable risk and danger to both vessel and crew of the rescuing boat, and this makes the merit of the rescuers all the greater and our admiration of their humanity and gallantry all the more profound. As a small token of such admiration, and as an encouragement to others who may be called upon at a future time to render similar services, we respectfully ask you to present on our behalf to the owner, coxswain and crew the various mementos which I shall now proceed to enumerate. To Mr. Chan Ying Fan, the owner, an embroidered silk banner. To Mr. Lau Tai the coxswain, a gold medal and a purse of \$50. To Messrs. Chan Ying, Chan Ho, Yeung Yan, Sok Look, Cheung Loo, Lai Yung, Ma Ti, a silver medal and a purse of \$25 each. (Applause).

The Hon. Mr. E. A. IRVING having presented the mementos, replied as follows:—Dr. Ho Kai, Directors of the Tung Wa Hospital, and gentlemen—It has given me much pleasure to assist at the interesting ceremony which you have come here to-day to witness. I have handed a banner, medals, gold and silver, and other

rewards to the owner, coxswain and crew of the steam launch "Kam Shun" to commemorate an action which will long live in the annals of Hongkong, and to mark the appreciation of the Chinese public. Without that timely action, that commendable promptitude, there are many Chinese families who would to-day be mourning the loss of their nearest and dearest. Napoleon the Great once praised the "three o'clock in the morning courage," as the sort that is rarest and most valuable. I think that our friends here must have been inspired by something of this quality when, at 10 o'clock on a dark night of wind and rain, without a moment's hesitation they answered to the call of duty. Fortunately no lives were lost among the rescuers; but that does not lessen the risk incurred, the risk of panic and the mad rush which has before now enveloped rescuers and all in a common destruction.

The Hon. REGISTRAR-GENERAL then addressed the recipients in Chinese as follows:—There is a Chinese saying, "Who saves a life is better than he who builds seven pagodas." You have saved over 130 lives and have thus acquired much merit. Heaven will surely give you prosperity, and your sons and grandsons will be many.

Continuing in English the Hon. Mr. IRVING congratulated the leading Chinese on the spirit which prompted them to organise the presentation and made particular reference to Mr. Ho Kom-tong as the chief mover in the matter. (Applause).

The master of the "Kam Shun" and Mr. Ho Kom Tong replied and refreshments were afterwards served.

The medals were simple in design bearing on the obverse four Chinese characters meaning: "For conspicuous services in saving people from drowning." On the reverse the following inscription is engraved in Chinese: "Presented by the Committee of the Tung Wa Hospital, directors of the Po Leung Kuk Society and the leading Chinese gentry and merchants of Hongkong."

The proceedings terminated with cheers for Mr. Irving.

Subsequently a reception took place at the office of Messrs. Tak Kee and Co, launch owners, when Mr. Chan Ying Fan, the head of the firm, presented gold medals to the coxswain and crew of the "Kam Shun," and the silk flag received earlier in the afternoon was unfurled. The recipients were afterwards entertained to a Chinese dinner.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The report for the year 1907 states that the characteristic of the year in China has been trade depression, in all directions, of almost unprecedented severity. The result has been a heavy falling off in the earnings of all shipping engaged in the coast trade. Freight receipts have, therefore, suffered correspondingly, and the directors have found it necessary to have recourse to the general reserve fund and underwriting account in order to provide for the fleet (£56,585) and other requirements. After making these appropriations and meeting all expenses chargeable upon the year, including debenture interest, there remains a balance of £28,633, out of which it is proposed to pay the full cumulative dividend due upon the preferred ordinary shares and to carry forward £13,755. The debenture issue, authorized by the shareholders, has been duly effected during the year, and £250,000 subscribed. No additions have been made to the company's fleet during 1907, and no fresh building contracts have been entered into. The directors regret to report the loss of the steamship Yik Sang in January last upon the islands known as The Brothers, near Amoy. A portion of this loss will fall upon the underwriting account. The auditors state that the revenue account has been charged this year with a reduced amount for depreciation of steamers, and whilst the working accounts have been charged with the premiums of insurance actually paid, they have not been debited with premiums in respect of the company's underwriting account.

KOWLOON CRICKET CLUB.

The formal opening of the new club house of the Kowloon Cricket Club took place on July 11th in brilliant sunshine and in presence of a large gathering. The ceremony should have taken place on June 6th but it suffered nothing by reason of the delay and the cinder track laid down has also been completed, H. E. the Governor was present and performed the opening ceremony, which was followed by an inter-club tennis match. Music by the 105th Mahrattas' band added to the pleasures of the afternoon, and the hospitality dispensed by the club was appreciated.

As is well known, the club has been for a long time without a suitable habitation. Though it is one of the youngest organisations in the Colony, its progress has been as remarkable as the growth of Kowloon itself, and as one of the premier clubs of Hongkong it certainly deserved a proper pavilion. This the members recognised, but difficulties confronted them for a long time. Happily these were overcome and the present handsome structure was erected on a site near the entrance. Built of wood, with a ruberoid roof, the pavilion has a length of 50 feet and a breadth of 40 feet. There are a large dressing room equipped with lockers, a bath room, a ladies' room, a spacious bar, and committee and store rooms. A wide verandah runs along the front of the building which was built from plans prepared by Mr. E. M. Haselund.

The officials of the Club are:—Patron, H. E. Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G.; President, Mr. H. N. Mody; Chairman, Mr. H. T. Richardson; General Committee, Messrs. C. E. Libeaud, J. H. Mead, W. Stewart, J. Celland, H. E. Goldsmith, S. Smith, J. P. Robinson, J. H. Menagh and D. Harvey; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. P. Shroff, and Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. Choe.

His Excellency was received by the officials and members of the committee, and

Mr. H. N. Mody said:—Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, On behalf of the committee and members of the Kowloon Cricket Club as its President, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you here to-day, and I am sure we all regret that absence from the Colony prevents Lady Lugard from accompanying you as she did on the last occasion when you visited us. We trust that the day of her return to Hongkong completely recovered in health is not far distant. Since your Excellency's last visit on New Year's day you will notice that great advances in the interest of sport have been made on this ground. The Amateur Athletic Association have now completed a splendid running track, the finest, if not the only track in the Far East, and the fine Club House which I shall directly ask you to formally open has been finished. We acknowledge with grateful thanks the generosity of the Government in placing at our disposal a ground which lends itself so admirably to sports. Exercise and recreation are necessary to us all and I am sure that nowhere can these be better obtained than in this most excellent ground, and I am glad to be able to tell you that its opportunities are being fully taken advantage of by our members. That Kowloon has a great commercial future cannot be doubted, and that it should also have a great future and take a leading place in the sports of this Colony is our ardent wish. I have to thank your Excellency for so kindly coming over here to-day, especially as the original date for this ceremony had on account of bad weather to be postponed—and your coming here to-day may have been at the cost of some other more important engagement. I can only assure you that we appreciate your kindness in doing so very highly, showing as it does the very keen interest you take in the sports of the Colony. I have now the great pleasure to present you with this key (at the same time handing His Excellency a silver key) and ask you, Sir, to open our new Club House. (Applause.)

His EXCELLENCY said:—Mr. Mody, Ladies and Gentlemen, before I proceed to open this Club House with the key with which I have just been presented by your President, I would like to say a few words. We all know that wherever a British Colony is started, the first thing the Colonists do is to get a racecourse, polo

ground and cricket ground. I know that from my own experience in Africa. My officers were content to live in tents and grass huts, through whose roofs the rain found its way, while busily planning for polo and cricket ground, and since it is the tradition of our race to put sport—I will not say before anything else—but before anything which is not absolutely necessary, I am glad to see that this tradition is being maintained here in Kowloon. It is the same thing on active service, as I have also seen. Where a British force camps for a few days or weeks, a cricket ground or polo ground springs into existence, as if by magic. I remember when I was a young soldier about thirty years ago—I am sorry to say that it is a long time ago—when I was on active service in Afghanistan, we sometimes had to march with a very light kit indeed, with only bare necessities and everything that was not light was thrown out; yet every day when we camped the men were very fond of putting a 20lb. weight! (laughter). We never found out to the day that we left the country how that 20lb shot was brought from camp to camp. Your President has alluded to the last time I was here. That was on New Year's Day when I witnessed the Children's Sports and I think that it is a most sporting and most generous thing of this Club to have that institution of Children's Sports each year. I was delighted to hear that you are going to make them an annual institution, and I know that the idea has received the very special interest and generous liberality of your President (applause). I see two extraordinary changes on the ground since I was here before—the admirable cinder track and this delightful pavilion. I hope that you will see from this platform many sporting contests carried out in a sporting spirit, not for the sake of a Cup but for the sake of sport—run well and finished well. (Applause). I have to thank you, Sir, for the kind allusion you have made to Lady Lugard, who would have been delighted to have been here this afternoon, but she was compelled to go to England under medical advice and I hope that she will be back again early in November. I hope to see her back again in time for the Children's Sports next year (applause). I have now much pleasure in opening the door. (Applause.)

His EXCELLENCY then placed the key in the lock, and turning it said:—I declare this pavilion open, ladies and gentlemen (applause).

His EXCELLENCY afterwards undid the tape, and with this ceremony the cinder track was declared opened.

In the subsequent match between the Kowloon Cricket Club and the Hongkong Cricket Club the home players after leading the greater part of the contest were beaten by their opponents.

The results were:—Hancock-Carr (Hongkong) v. Lapsley. Brewer 7-5; v. Klimanek-Clelland, 5-7; v. Fowler-Edwards, 11-1; 23 games to 13.

Murray-Hastings (Hongkong) v. Klimanek-Clelland, 9-3; v. Fowler-Edwards, 6-6; Lapsley-Brewer, 10-2; 23 games to 11.

Wodehouse-King (Hongkong) v. Fowler-Edwards, 5-7; v. Brewer-Lapsley, 2-10; v. Klimanek-Clelland, 4-8; 11 games to 25.

Hongkong, 59 games; Kowloon, 43 games.

THE TROUBLE ON THE INDO-CHINA FRONTIER.

Hanoi papers continue to contain reports of conflicts with bands of Chinese reformers who are giving trouble on the frontier of Annam. The most recent affair has been at Khon-Day where Commandant Lecreux met a band of them. He killed 13 and took four prisoners. He took possession of fifteen rifles and several hundred cartridges. Four of the rifles were of a 1902 model. One of the men killed was a chief and upon his person were found several objects belonging to the late Lieut. Reynaud. There was no loss on the French side in this engagement.

The headman of Bao Quang succeeded in ambushing another band who were fleeing before the French troops. He took 50 prisoners and 37 rifles. The rest of the band is expected to be captured shortly.

NOTES FROM THE NORTH.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TIENTSIN, 20th June.

CHANGE AT THE CUSTOMS.

Tientsin is about to lose its Commissioner of Customs, Mr. H. F. Merrill. Mr. Merrill, who is an American, joined the I.M.C. in 1874, and was made Commissioner in 1887. Before coming to Tientsin in the spring of '906 in succession to Mr. Dstring, he was Commissioner at Ningpo. Mr. and Mrs. Merrill and their daughter have been very prominent and popular socially in Tientsin, and their loss will be greatly felt.

Mr. Merrill is being lent by the acting Inspector-General to the Chinese Government for special service in America. He will not leave the Customs. The new appointment has been made in the following circumstances. Mr. Ragsdale, the U. S. Consul-General in Tientsin, has just gone on promotion to St. Petersburg. Mr. Williams, of the U. S. Legation in Peking, has succeeded Mr. Ragsdale in Tientsin and Dr. Tenney, formerly president of the Peiyang University, Tientsin, and latterly appointed to the charge of a Chinese educational mission to the United States, succeeds Mr. Williams in Peking. Mr. Merrill is now to be sent to America to take charge of the Chinese students there in place of Dr. Tenney.

Mr. Merrill is succeeded in the Tientsin Commissionership by Mr. C. L. Simpson, who is at present Commissioner at Ningpo. Mr. Simpson, who has one son in the I.M.C. and had two, is the oldest Commissioner in the service with the exception of Sir Robert Hart who joined two years before he did. One of Mr. Simpson's sons used to be in the Customs head office in Peking, and now residing in the capital is perhaps better known to the world as "Putnam Weale" the author of four or five very successful books on Far Eastern politics.

SIR WALTER HILLIER.

Referring again to Reuter's telegram about the appointment of Sir Walter Hillier as adviser to the Chinese Government, one of the Peking rumours in circulation is to the effect that Sir Walter has come out in connection with the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., and another report confirms this and adds the particulars that he has come out to give authoritative meanings of Chinese documents.

THE C. E. AND M. CO.

The Agent and Manager in China of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., is, as many of your readers must know, Major Nathan, brother of the late Governor of Hongkong. He is an able business man and a diplomatist, but he has here a difficult, if not an impossible task. He has to satisfy his directors, and he has to get on smoothly with the Chinese authorities. The latter have their own view of the result of the big law case which Chang-Yen-Mou lost in London three years ago. Since then there have been continual negotiations, but these have not had mutually satisfactory results. The Chinese are dissatisfied, and can make things very unpleasant for the Mining Co. The latter has been doing its best to make its position strong. It has been going into the matter of title deeds, &c., creating new ones when these were found to be defective. Now, however, there are rumours that a settlement is about to be effected. But apparently it is still to be negotiated, and the interests of the European and Chinese parties concerned are so diverse that it would be rash to anticipate a successful outcome.

Of course in any such negotiations the interpretation of documents would be an important feature, and there is considerable verisimilitude in the report that it is for this purpose that Sir Walter has come out to China.

TIENTSIN, June 25th.

AN ABLE OFFICIAL.

A Cantonese has been selected by the Chinese Government, as briefly stated in my last notes, to conduct the important negotiations with the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. This is H. E. Liang Fu Hao, who was formerly director of the China Merchants S. N. Co., director of the Imperial Railways of North China, Customs Taotai of Newchwang, and Customs Taotai of

Tientsin. He is now a junior Vice-President of the Waiwupu. He is a remarkably able official and in every sense of the word a strong man. He is a vigorous "rights-recovery" partisan, and will be an exceedingly hard nut for Major Nathan to crack. The Agent and General Manager of the Mining Co. is very popular among all classes in Tientsin, and every one would wish him success in his diplomatic encounter with Mr. M. T. Liang, as His Excellency is called here, but it is anticipated that unless Major Nathan concedes what the Chinese consider their reasonable demands Mr. Liang will wipe the floor with him diplomatically speaking.

THE NEXT MINISTER TO ENGLAND.

After H. E. Liang has concluded these negotiations with the Mining Co. he will continue in Peking his work as a member of the Waiwupu until the return to China of Lord Li Ching Fang, the Chinese Minister in England, whom he will succeed. And no man, it can safely be said, is better fitted to fill the post. Mr. Liang is certainly the ablest of the numerous Cantonese who helped H. E. Yuan Shih Kai to spell efficiency and integrity with capital letters in Pechili.

THE AMERICAN FLEET'S VISIT.

H. E. Liang Tung Yen, another Cantonese protégé of H. E. Yuan Shih Kai, now a Vice-President of the Waiwupu, and a former Customs Taotai of Tientsin, has been appointed to go to Amoy to welcome the U.S. battleship fleet when it arrives in the coming autumn.

In this connection it is to be remarked the rumour that H. E. Yuen will give up the Presidency of Waiwupu to become President of the Board of the Navy with a view of establishing a new and efficient Navy for China. It having been noised abroad that China wanted a Navy, Peking has for some months past been thronged with naval shipbuilders' representatives from all parts of the world seeking for orders. The most enterprising of these, perhaps, have been the Japanese. But the visit of the U. S. battleship fleet will be a huge advertisement for American shipbuilders and ordnance manufacturers, and no doubt the trade representatives of those industries will seek to make the most of it in Peking.

A CHINESE NAVY.

Where and how the money for this navy is to be raised still remains to be seen. Of course in the long run the burden must fall on the Chinese taxpayer, who is ill-prepared to bear it. I wonder whether the Peking Government realises the cost of armaments and the drain they impose on the resources of a country. By the last mail from England I have received some interesting statistics of an official character which plainly show how imprudent it would be for China to attempt at this juncture to compete with other countries that already possess big and efficient navies.

Compare China with her two neighbours in the Pacific, Japan and the United States. Japan is reckoned a poor country as compared with the leading Western countries, but by her side China cuts a ridiculous figure. Japan has a revenue and expenditure per head of her population of £1.0.9; China, 8d! In the United States the revenue per head is £1.12.10 and the expenditure £1.8.10. In the United Kingdom the revenue per head is £3.5.8 and the expenditure £3.3.3, while in France—and France is a neighbour of China—the revenue per head is £3.18.0, and the expenditure is the same. But China 8d., and she wants a navy! Surely if the Peking Government want to spend money there are other objects on which it may be spent far more usefully than on a navy.

But the naval talk may prove as unreal and futile as much other talk that is indulged in in the capital. Paper plans and proposals are cheap. At present they are the only ones in which the Chinese revenue will permit the Government to indulge.

THE CHINESE STATE BANK.

No, the preliminary of all progress and reform in China—though some would not consider naval or military expenditure either progress or reform—is a reorganisation of the national finances. The "sinews of war" must first be provided. That China is new, in this respect, in a better position than she was may not be saying much, but at any rate it is satisfactory to be able to say it at all. Peking member of the I.M.C. has just

written a little pamphlet entitled "Notes on the Chinese Government Bank"—an institution of which the Chairman said at the first annual general meeting:—"Our object is not simply to pay rich dividends to the State or to private individuals; what we want most is to strengthen the State's credit and the Nation's commercial health." And there is ample room for this.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF CHINA.

Mr. Jules Gory, the author of the pamphlet above referred to, does not make a single allusion to the Imperial Bank of China, though he mentions the Shansi and other Chinese banks. The Imperial Bank of China is a purely Chinese bank, though run on European banking lines and managed by Europeans. The head manager who set it going was a former manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Shanghai. Its books are modelled on those of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. It does a big and thriving business among the Chinese. It has a large note issue of its own. But it is not a State bank. No foreigner can hold shares in it, and the staff is becoming more and more Chinese and less and less European, but it is purely a private commercial bank.

THE TA CH'ING BANK.

The bank described in Mr. Gory's brochure is the Ta Ch'ing (formerly the Hu Pu) Bank. This institution, as the author explains, was founded less than three years ago, more or less as an outcome of the Mackay Treaty of 1903; the idea was that China should take the necessary steps to provide for an uniform national coinage by establishing a centre bank to issue the coin and regulate its circulation. The bank is absolutely and entirely run and managed by Chinese. The manager and sub-manager are both Southern Chinese, the former being a Cantonese who was at one time comprador of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in Hongkong, Mr. Ch'en Wen-ch'uen. This year a branch is to be opened in Canton.

The Ta Ch'ing Bank has inflicted considerable damage upon the Shansi bankers, infringing their long-enjoyed monopoly of remittances and other transactions for the account of the Government. Mr. Gory thinks the day is not far off when the Shansi banks will have nothing more to do with the Government money. New branches of the Ta Ch'ing Bank are continually being opened. Besides the head office in Peking there are branch offices in Tientsin, Shanghai, Hankow, Ch'ianan, Kalgan, Newchwang, Urga, and Chungking, and sub-offices at Paoting, Chou Ts'un, Antung, and in a number of other places the bank is represented by native banks. Proposals are now being considered to open branch offices at Nanking, Foochow, Hangchow, K'iaifeng, Kirin, Taiyuan, Nanshang, and Ch'angsha.

At first the commercial class viewed, the bank with suspicion, but the fact that the bank has paid 30 per cent. on its capital shows that it is a success from the outset. The reform of the currency has not been lost sight of. Much has been done during the past twelve months with regard to the copper currency, and the fame and credit of the Bank's tael, dollar, and cash notes are rapidly extending. For official purposes the Government is doing all it can to encourage the use of the Ta Ch'ing Bank's notes, and even for commercial purposes both official and mercantile Chinese are pushing the bank's notes in preference to foreign bank notes.

There is a story hailing from Peking that the Board of Finance has ordered from America machinery for printing bank notes, and that when this arrives the Board itself will print and issue notes and will allow no notes to be issued by other banks, private or Government; but this, I think, is obviously an erroneous report, due to some misapprehension.

TIENTSIN-PUKOW RAILWAY.

It is not usual for the silver spade to be broken on the occasion of the cutting of the first sod of a railway, but this is the contretemps that marred the proceedings to-day at the opening ceremony of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway at Hsiku, which was attended by practically all Tientsin and a good many from Peking. *Abait omen.*

By the by, the Board of Communications is not to be congratulated on the way in which the construction of this railway is being managed. All the high and highly paid officials were

appointed months ago, at the beginning of this year, and for the past three months at least have been drawing their salaries. But they have done very little if any work simply because they have been unable to do so. They have had no staff. Their subordinates have not been appointed, and go to work has been impossible. This, of course, tends to add to the cost of the undertaking.

The Pukow Railway, I may mention for the information of Southern readers, will tap Shantung and connect Tientsin with Nanking, forming an important link in the chain of railways that will one day extend from Tientsin and Peking to Shanghai and Canton.

TRAGEDY AT STANLEY.

LUKONG FATALLY WOUNDS HIS ASSAILANT.

A shooting fatality was reported to the police on July 13. The occurrence took place at Stanley on July 12th when a lukong in plain clothes was on special duty. He was walking outwards from the village when he met a man carrying a suspicious looking bundle and followed at a little distance by other two men. He challenged the man with the bundle and asked him what he had in it but the man refused to have it searched, and as the other two came up they, so it is alleged, attacked the lukong. They snatched his whistle from him after he had blown it, and declared they would throw him into the sea. Fearing that they would put their threat into execution he drew his revolver and fired twice in the air. This alarmed the second and third men who made off, but the other remained and continued his struggle with the lukong. He grasped the lukong by the queue, and as the latter was in an awkward plight he fired his revolver low, with the intention of disabling his assailant. Apparently the shot took no effect and he fired again. Then the other relinquished his hold and sank to the ground saying that he had been shot. The lukong appealed to a passer-by to go for the ambulance, but he returned and declared he could not find it. The lukong thereafter went to the station and reported the matter. The dying man was removed to the station where it was found that he had been shot in the abdomen and that the parcel which he refused to have examined consisted of dynamite. He told the sergeant that he had refused to have his bundle searched and the lukong had shot him. On the way to the launch he died, and the body was brought to the mortuary at Victoria.

The lukong's story was that the first man called to the other "ta" and they shouted "ta ku." Whether the lukong really acted in self-defence will be inquired into, and the matter is at present engaging the attention of the Superintendent of Police.

BRAZILIAN CRUISER IN PORT.

On July 10th the Brazilian cruiser "Benjamin Constant," a training ship carrying a number of cadets who are in training for service in the Brazilian Navy, arrived in port. The cruiser, which is on a voyage round the world, left Rio de Janeiro on January 22nd, and has since visited Monte Video, Punta Arenas, Callao, Honolulu, Yokohama, Nagasaki, Sasebo and Shanghai. On Saturday Senhor J. J. Leiria, Consul for Brazil, boarded the cruiser, and shortly after noon he was accompanied by the Commander on a visit to His Excellency the Governor. An official call was then made on Major-General Broadwood, the General Officer Commanding. In the afternoon the captain and other officers of the vessel were taken to the Gymkhana by Consul Leiria, and after a few races had been run they left for Kowloon in order to be present when His Excellency the Governor performed the opening ceremony in connection with the new pavilion for the Kowloon Cricket Club. The Captain and officers, of the "Benjamin Constant" dined with Mr. Leiria at the Hongkong Hotel on Saturday night, and after dinner paid a visit to the Flood Fund Bazaar at Shekton'sui.

It is reported at Saigon that two thousand men have left France for Indo-China by one of the steamers of the Compagnie des Transports Maritimes.

DEATH OF MR. GUY BLOOD.

It is no unmeaning formula to say that the death of Mr. Charles Guy Blood will be learned with deep regret. This popular young architect, who had a promising career before him, passed away on July 14th at the Peak Hospital whither he had been brought from Canton in a state of collapse a few days previously. Deceased came out to Hongkong about six years ago, and entered the service of Messrs. Palmer and Turner, architects, and the conscientious and efficient manner in which he discharged his duties made him respected by all with whom he came in contact. He was indeed an ornament to his profession and it is particularly sad that a life so full of promise should be cut short. His integrity and sterling worth were appreciated by everyone who knew him, and though socially he was quiet and unobtrusive yet he made many friends. Outside of his professional duties he devoted a great deal of his time to the work in connection with the Volunteers. He joined the corps as a gunner but such was his keenness that he quickly rose from the ranks. Less than two years ago he was the proud possessor of a sergeant's stripes, and only twelve months ago he received a commission. As Lieut. Blood he acquitted himself no less admirably and he still remained the favourite with Right Half No. 2 that he always was. His loss will be especially felt by the Corps, the members of which turned out in good numbers on Tuesday afternoon to pay their last tribute of respect to one whom they all loved. He was 38 years of age, and deep sympathy is felt for his bereaved parents.

The Volunteer concert, arranged for Saturday night, has been postponed.

The interment was accompanied by military honours, a number of deceased's brother officers following the hearse to the monument at Happy Valley. There a halt was made and the coffin placed on a gun carriage, the Union Jack covering it, and in turn being covered by numerous wreaths sent by sorrowing friends. Then the cortege formed into line, a firing party of forty Volunteers headed by Lieutenant M. Northcote being in the van. Next came the band of the Middlesex Regiment with draped drums, the carriage bearing deceased following. Then the Volunteers up to full strength followed by the Volunteer Troop of about sixteen members under the command of Lieutenant Ross. After the Troop came numerous Naval and Military officers including Captain Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor and Lieut.-Colonel Reid, Principal Medical Officer. A large number of deceased's civilian friends brought up the rear. To the mournful strains of the Dead March, and with the arms of the military reversed, the cortege proceeded slowly to the Protestant cemetery. Here the Rev. A. D. Stewart conducted the burial service, and when the remains of deceased had been lowered to their last resting place his comrades in arms sang the hymn "Days and moments quickly flying." The firing party then fired their farewell salute and the bugle band concluded the service by sounding "The last post." The Volunteer Officers present were Lieut. Colonel Chapman, Major Macdonald, Captains Thomson, Armstrong and Skinner, Lieutenants Northcote, Kennett, Wolfe, Plummer and Ross.

OPIUM IN THE NORTH.

"The P. & T. Times" states that an agreement was concluded on July 1 between Mr. C. B. Towns and the Anti-Opium Bureau of Chihli Province, whereby Mr. Towns will treat for the Board several hundred persons addicted to opium or other drug habits. Arrangements for the housing, etc., of the persons to be treated are being perfected, and the work will be well under way almost immediately. This announcement signalizes the beginning, apparently, of a movement which will presently engage the close attention of China and the outside world. Coming, as it does, at a time sufficiently in advance of the meeting of the international opium conference in Shanghai in January, the results of these extensive operations, the N.C. Daily News remarks, will undoubtedly be a factor in the deliberations of the Commission.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK.

An accident attended with fatal results occurred at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank between 10 and 11 o'clock yesterday forenoon. A coolie named Ho Chan was engaged with others in shifting one of the old Treasury doors at the basement of the bank. While so engaged the door, which weighs about two tons, fell on both his legs, crushing the right one to a pulp and seriously damaging the other. The police were immediately notified, and the injured man was removed to the Government Civil Hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries at four o'clock in the afternoon.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN PATTERSON.

San Francisco papers of May 29th report the death, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. William Latham, Alameda, on the 28th inst., of Capt. Martin Francis Patterson, familiarly and affectionately known as "Old Pat."

He was born at Belfast, Maine, U.S.A., on January 6th, 1830, so had reached the ripe age of 78 years. In 1867 he brought the s.s. *Warrior* out from New York to Shanghai for the firm of Russell and Co., remaining in their service till 1875, when they were bought out by the China Merchants S.S. Co. This firm he served till 1905, a period of thirty years, almost exclusively in the Shanghai, Tientsin trade, where his name still remains a household word. One who knew him well writes:—He was certainly the best known and most popular shipmaster on the China Coast, and his death comes as a shock to his many friends in spite of his ripe age, as he has enjoyed the *otium cum dignitate* of retired life for three years only. His career was eminently successful and he seemed to have entire immunity from accident, owing to his unquestioned ability, and a kindlier, more genial and loveable specimen of Nature's nobility never existed. He had not an enemy in the world.

"His nature kind and soft
Faithful below he did his duty,
And now he's gone aloft!"

FUNERAL OF MR. R. B. ALLEN.

The funeral of the late Mr. R. B. Allen of Messrs. Calbeck, McGregor & Co. Shanghai, took place on the 3rd inst. at the Bubbling Well Cemetery. Among the many mourners present were members of H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, Supreme and Police Courts, staffs of Customs, Municipal Council, and the Shanghai Volunteers. A large number of floral pieces had been sent by the many friends of the deceased, and the casket was completely hidden under the mass of flowers, the most noticeable of the offerings being a monster floral harp. The R. G. Winning, M.A., read a touching burial service in the Chapel which was packed with friends. At the conclusion of the service, the casket was carried to the grave side by the pall bearers who consisted of Sir Pelham Warren, K.C.M.G., Messrs. J. McKie, W. A. C. Platt, A. P. Wood, W. S. Jackson, R. I. Fearon, P. F. Lavers and C. W. Wrightson. The last rites being performed, the casket was lowered to its resting place and the grave filled, after which the floral offerings were piled in a mass on top. During the day the flags of most of the clubs were half-masted as a token of esteem.—*Shanghai Mercury*.

The French Tricolour was much in evidence in Hongkong on the 14th of July, the great French holiday. Local citizens of La Belle France celebrated the occasion in fitting style, and Monsieur Gaston Liebert, Consul for France, held the usual reception at the Consulate in Prince's Building. He first welcomed French residents in Hongkong and afterwards received many British and foreign residents. Captain Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., called and paid his respects on behalf of His Excellency the Governor, the A.D.C.'s of the General and Admiral, members of the Consular Corps, numerous Government officials and many private residents also attended.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BLIND AND LAME.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SIR—I think it is time that the Government should provide some place of abode for the blind and lame. These unfortunate creatures are getting too numerous begging in public streets, some of them are too old to be supported by young girls and boys and their sight is very pitiful indeed. Generally on Friday these poor beings are seen scattered along the Caine Road up to Shelly Street, and very often causing obstruction to the passers-by. Certainly the Tung Wa Hospital can well afford to provide for them food and lodging and the Government should allow an annual subsidy for their maintenance. I think such a suggestion will meet with public approval.

Yours truly,

BENEFACITOR PAUPERUM.

Hongkong, 10th July, 1908.

PERSIAN AND TURKESTAN OPIUM.

Chinese Public Opinion (Peking) says with reference to the importation of Persian and Turkestan opium into China that the Board of Revenue has been in consultation and has decided that from January 1909 all opium imported from these places must first be landed at Kowloon and there obtain a permit. Any case coming into any part of China without such permit will be confiscated. The present import amounts to about 1,125 piculs, and a reduction of 10 per cent on this amount must be made annually and by 1916 the import will cease entirely.

[This paragraph in our Peking contemporary is headed "Official News," but we think we must give the Board of Revenue credit for more intelligence. Turkestan opium is never likely to enter China by way of Kowloon, and we have yet to learn that Persia and Turkestan have made an arrangement with China to annually reduce their opium export to China by 10 per cent.—ED.-H.D.P.]

THE SOUTH MANCHURIAN RAILWAY.

A general meeting of the South Manchurian Railway Company, says the *Japan Times* of June 28, was held yesterday afternoon at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, when the following accounts were submitted and adopted:—

	Yen.
Net profit.....	1,087,980
Balance brought forward	926,907
Total	2,013,886
To legal reserve	54,399
To dividend except the government (8 per cent)	60,000
To special reserves	200,000
To bonus and social expenses	97,000
Carried forward.....	1,602,486

Baron Goto delivered a speech, in which, referring to the open door question he said that some persons charged the Railway with acting contrary to the principles of the open door policy. But both the South Manchurian Railway and the Government General were doing their best to cultivate friendly feelings with other Powers. The hotel business by the Railway Company was for this purpose. It was a great mistake to believe that the railway wanted to monopolize the interests of Manchuria.

Three Commissioners appointed by the Japanese Patent Bureau have concluded their investigations, for a revision of the Trade-marks Regulations, with regard to foreign regulations. The "prior application" principle adopted by Japan could not prevent all piracies and check foreign complaints, but it is now proposed, so says a Tokyo paper, to blend together the principles of "prior application" and "prior user." The appearance of a "prior user" within three years will nullify the trade-marks once registered. The revised Trade-marks Regulations, together with the Patent and Design laws, will be submitted to the Diet next session.

"A BOMBSHELL IN MANILA BUSINESS CIRCLES."

AN ARMY PURCHASE OF FOREIGN CLOTH VETOED.

A special cable to the *Cablenews-American* states that—President Roosevelt has disapproved the action of the military authorities in Manila in contracting for the purchase of foreign khaki cloth for the manufacture of uniforms of the army, and has vetoed the purchase.

The action of the President in disapproving the purchase of khaki in the Philippines for the manufacture of uniforms for the troops will come, our Manila contemporary says, as a bombshell in local business circles. There is no explanation offered for the action. The President has simply vetoed the purchase of foreign made material. It may be that the labour unions or the manufacturers have become native and influenced the Chief Executive. If this is so it is not believed here that the President is fully informed of the facts in the case. The khaki used in the manufacture of clothing in the Philippines is English cloth and is the best khaki cloth made. In fact it is the only real khaki cloth to be obtained anywhere in the world. Throughout the army it is a notorious fact that the cloth manufactured in the United States and sold to the government is of inferior quality and is of a very bad colour. That its colour is bad to start with and every washing makes it worse. The cloth fades, not always in a uniform manner but frequently in spots. It is not the true khaki colour.

The secret of dyeing cloth the khaki colour—for khaki is a colour and not a special weave of cloth—is possessed by a firm of English dyers and they have not given it away to anyone. Experiments by the hundred have been attempted, but all have failed. In the United States thousands of dollars have been spent by manufacturers and weavers in an attempt to secure the colour. Their efforts have been unsuccessful, the nearest they have obtained is the mud coloured fabric that is seen here frequently on soldiers fresh from the United States. No officer of the army or marine corps will wear the United States khaki except when he can get nothing better. The cost of the manufacture of uniforms in the Philippines is almost a dollar gold less than the cost of manufacture in the United States. The clothing made here is not only of better quality cloth, but is better fitting and more comfortable in every way. The same quality clothing in the United States would cost almost five times the price paid for it here.

Recently contracts were let for the purchase of 580,000 yards of the English khaki to be used in the manufacture of uniforms here and a contract was let for the manufacture of enough uniforms to supply all the troops in the division. The business men in the islands have General Wood to thank for obtaining this valuable contract. General Wood worked for two years with the War department before he could secure permission for the manufacture of even the uniforms of the scouts here. He finally obtained it by springing on the department an array of facts and figures they could not get around. This year it was planned to make the uniforms for all the troops in the division here and the contracts were let as has been stated. It is possible that further representations will be made to the President to secure a reconsideration of his decision.

The contract had been given to Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co. and is stated to have been worth 170,000 pesos.

In weather such as we are now having, it is intolerable to sit with windows and doors closed, but the open window and door may be entered by the thief as well as by the stray sypher. At Mr. Cooper's residence, "Rougement," the windows on the ground floor were open on Thursday night, and on that night, or early the following morning some person or persons unknown entered the house by one of the windows, gathered together jewellery and other articles to the value of \$131, and departed. The matter was reported to the police, but so far the rogue or rogues are at large.

SUPREME COURT

Friday, July 10th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

A MATTER FOR ARBITRATION.

Mr. G. E. Morrell (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) mentioned a case which was not on the list, but which he asked his Lordship to hear as his client was leaving the Colony shortly. The original action out of which the case arose was between Harker and Daniel and Roberts. The defendants rented a house from the plaintiff which they sublet to Mr. R. Harding, and he agreed to indemnify them for any damage done. There was damage done but Mr. Harding, who was joined as a third party, would not agree to the amount asked for in the writ.

Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) said he was instructed to appear for Mr. Harding, and contended that Mr. Morrell should give proper notice before mentioning the case. Personally he thought it was *res judicata*. Mr. Morrell—My client has been ordered home on the 24th.

His Lordship—Who is your client?

Mr. Morrell—Mr. Daniel.

His Lordship—I think they are entitled to some notice.

Mr. Morrell—I had a definite offer of settlement at one time, but they went back on that yesterday.

His Lordship—I think this is a matter which might very well go before an arbitrator.

Mr. Morrell—I think so too.

Mr. Dixon—The whole matter was referred to Mr. Melbourne. I think it is out of your jurisdiction, my Lord, until you get a report from him.

Mr. Morrell—I may say that Mr. Dixon is an interested party in the action.

Mr. Dixon—I am not an interested party in the action at all; you've no right to say I am.

His Lordship intimated that he would hear argument next Friday morning after the settling of the other cases.

Monday, 13th July.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

MISSING FIREWOOD.

Violet Chan sued Wallem and Co. for the delivery of 23,980 pieces of firewood short delivered ex the s.s. "Progress" or in the alternative for \$618, value thereof. Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. A. Jackson (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) for the defendants.

It was set out in the statement of claim that on the arrival of the s.s. "Progress" in Hongkong, with the firewood on board, the defendants took possession of her and her cargo. On February 25th the defendants, by their solicitors, agreed in writing that on plaintiff paying the sum mentioned in the bill of lading, \$325.48, they would deliver the firewood to plaintiff. That amount had been paid, but plaintiff had not received the firewood.

The statement of defence set out that the admitted partners in the Choong Hing Steamship Co., the charterers of the s.s. "Progress," had departed out of the Colony in consequence of judgment obtained against them, and to evade execution issued thereunder. The defendants denied that 176,730 pieces of firewood, or any firewood, had been shipped aboard the s.s. "Progress" to be carried to Hongkong and delivered to the plaintiff upon the terms of the bill of lading signed by Go Buck Lin as agents for the Choong Hing Steamship Co. They claimed that they had a perfect right to exercise the lien on the freight under a clause of the charter party, the charterers being then in arrear with their charter money.

Mr. Brutton, in opening, said his friend and he had come to the arrangement that it should be assumed for the purposes of the case that

all the firewood had been duly put on board at Sandakan, and received on board. The facts were shortly that on May 14th, 1907, Messrs. Wallem & Co. entered into a charter party with the Choong Hing Steamship Co. in which they chartered the "Progress" to the latter Company at \$8,500 a month. Apparently in January or February the Choong Hing Steamship Co. were in arrear with the payment of their charter money, and on the arrival of the "Progress" in Hongkong, before she dropped anchor, Messrs. Wallem & Co. took possession of her cargo. Clause 1 of the charter party read that the owners were to have a lien on her cargo, freight or sub-freight. The ship's manifest showed that on the voyage in question there were shipped on board, consigned to different consignees, 312,330 pieces of firewood. Plaintiff was claiming in respect of a balance due on 176,730 pieces mentioned in the manifest as shipped on behalf of the plaintiff. The bill of lading was issued in respect of 176,730 pieces on February 18th, 1908. It showed the quantity of firewood, the amount of freight, and stated that freight was payable on delivery. Evidence would be called to show that when the ship was entering Lyceumun the pilot took off a letter instructing the captain that Messrs. Wallem and Co. were to take possession of the ship. The ship's manifest and the Choong Hing bills of lading were handed over by the supercargo before the ship dropped anchor, and instructions were given that no cargo was to be delivered at all. On February 26th defendants' compradore was sent on board and began delivering cargo on bills of lading countersigned by Wallem and Co. On February 8th the plaintiff, Mrs. Chan, sent \$2,000 Sandakan dollars to Sandakan for the purpose of buying firewood, and there 176,730 pieces were purchased. On February 26th, in consequence of a letter received, she went to Messrs. Wallem and Co. and paid the freight. Altogether, she took delivery of 152,000 pieces, which left a balance due of 23,230 pieces. After this she was informed that defendants declined to give delivery of any more wood, although at that time there was firewood in the hold, and it was being delivered into the Kowloon Godown.

After evidence in support of the plaintiff's claim had been heard, Mr. Jackson stated the defence. He raised the points that defendants acted merely as agents; that they were not liable for the carriage and/or delivery of the firewood; that plaintiff being consignee, was not entitled to take action; and that the letter of February 25th, mentioned by the solicitor of plaintiff in his opening statement, was not an agreement.

While evidence was being heard for the defence Mr. Brutton asked for a copy of a document which he had seen at Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master's office. It had been disclosed, and he was entitled to see it.

Mr. Jackson (producing document)—This document gives you the figures.

Mr. Brutton (examining)—They are not the figures I have seen.

His Lordship—I think you are entitled to see it. Where did the translations come from?

Mr. Jackson—As a rule translations are turned over to the interpreter; then they are sent to the Court Interpreter. I say there are no such documents as those in existence. This is the interpretation certified to by the Court Interpreter.

His Lordship—Which documents are you asking for?

Mr. Brutton—This document, your Lordship, which I copied at Messrs. Johnson Stokes and Master's office.

His Lordship (to Mr. Jackson)—You have this original, I suppose?

Mr. Jackson—Here is the translation, my Lord. If he peruses this document he will see he has all he wants.

Mr. Brutton—I am sorry, my Lord. This does not make up the amount. If my friend will admit that the figures which I copied are correct it will save hours of time.

Mr. Jackson—I cannot admit that until I tot up these figures.

Mr. Brutton—These show 87,520 pieces delivered, and the books show 42,000. Yet according to another story, there are 2,000. Those figures are absolutely unreliable.

His Lordship—Yes, there are all sorts of discrepancies.

Mr. Brutton—I ask the Court to assume that the proper stuff was aboard, and even if it does not, I rely on cases to show that they were liable.

His Lordship—Give me the figures again.

Mr. Brutton—27,968 by the tally books, and yet the accounts show 241,446.

Mr. Jackson—You cannot get that document, even if it was in existence. That 47,000 you ask about is in the list.

Mr. Brutton—I say not. I will read the lot (reads).

His Lordship—Is it any use my going on?

Mr. Brutton—No, my Lord. I ask that this list be produced to-morrow.

His Lordship—You are entitled to have anything produced that was disclosed. There is no difficulty about that.

Mr. Jackson—I will produce my interpreter to-morrow.

His Lordship—Is it wrong?

Mr. Jackson—No, it is only a question. We will show that it is correct.

Mr. Brutton—That is all I want. He must produce that document to-morrow.

The hearing was adjourned.

Wednesday, July 15th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

DISPUTE ABOUT GRANITE.

Action was brought by Sang Lee to recover from Li Ping the sum of \$500 for damages for the conversion by defendant of a quantity of broken granite, the property of plaintiffs, which was stored on Crown land at Hongkong and wrongfully removed by defendant without the consent of the plaintiffs on 7th and 8th November, and used by defendant in making roads at Hunghom.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) represented the plaintiffs, and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Bowley said the claim was for a certain quantity of broken granite such as was used for macadamising roads. The granite was taken by defendant without permission, and used for macadamising roads for the Government.

His Lordship—Was the defendant then contractor for the Kowloon roads?

Mr. Bowley—Yes, my Lord. Proceeding, he said that in 1906 the plaintiffs held a contract for repairing the Kowloon roads. At that time Mr. Tooker was the executive engineer in charge of roads, and in the latter part of 1906 he told Sang Lee that the Government intended to macadamise the Kowloon City road between Hunghom and the Cement Works and some distance along that road. When Mr. Tooker told Sang Lee that this road was to be macadamised they began to collect material for the work. They collected a certain quantity of broken granite, and with the permission of Mr. Tooker stored it on two pieces of Crown land. For some reason or other the work was not carried out until 1908. In 1907 a contract for roads was let to the defendant, Li Ping, and during that year until November, the piles of broken granite remained intact. Towards the end of October 1907 Mr. Tooker issued an order for the repair of the road from Gun Club Hill along the sea front to Hunghom Market. That work was carried out by Li Ping and completed some time in November. On the 7th of that month the broken stone ran short, and work was temporarily stopped. It appeared that on succeeding days Li Ping's men removed a quantity of this broken stone belonging to Sang Lee and used it on the road without permission. The partner of Sang Lee noticed that the stone had been removed, and on speaking to Li Ping's foreman learned that the workmen had been ordered by Li Ping to take the stone and use it on the road. The actual value of the stone removed was \$129.54, and for this amount Mr. Bowley asked for judgment.

His Lordship asked Mr. Grist if he was going to consent to judgment.

Mr. Grist—My client denies absolutely every word that has fallen from my friend except that he was contractor, and that he carried out

the work. I will show your Lordship not only where he obtained the amount of stone required to do the work, but more than the amount.

His Lordship—This is a sort of counterblast?

Mr. Grist—Yes, my Lord. Entirely.

Absolutely.

Mr. Bowley—Your Lordship will notice that this transaction took place on the 7th and 8th November, 1907, whereas the other transaction took place in January and February of this year.

Mr. Grist—It will be a matter of argument.

Mr. Bowley—I expected my friend to say this was a trumped-up case and so on, but I have the account book to show your Lordship.

His Lordship—Are you calling So Tsun Kee (a foreman)?

Mr. Bowley—One of the foremen has departed this life, and the other has departed the Colony.

Mr. Grist said the defence was a total denial of any liability. The defendant denied ever having taken any granite from any property belonging to the plaintiff.

Mr. Bowley—Crown land is not property belonging to the plaintiff.

Mr. Grist denied ever having taken any granite from the property of Sang Lee. The whole case was entirely trumped up in answer to the case which the plaintiff brought against the defendant a week or so ago, and his Lordship would notice that exactly the same sum was claimed, viz: \$500. The defendant in this case was at the time of the alleged cause of action Government contractor, and he carried out the work which was ordered. Mr. Grist would show to his Lordship where the defendant obtained the whole of the granite that was requisite for doing the work, and in fact, a little more. During the time that evidence was taken Mr. Grist would call his Lordship's particular attention to the fact that nothing was said of this claim whatsoever until after the defendant commenced an action.

Evidence was then called for the defence, and in the course of the examination of defendant Mr. Grist wished to put in his books which had not been translated.

Mr. Bowley—My friend ought to come into court prepared to prove his case.

Mr. Grist—I am not here to prove any case. I am here to prove that the matter is entirely trumped up.

Mr. Bowley—My friend is absolutely misrepresenting the case. There is nothing trumped up about it. There are full particulars on the writ giving date, and place and quantities, and if the defendants are going to put in particulars they should have been in a week ago. I object to the books going in.

Mr. Grist—He swears certain figures appear in his books, and here are the books.

Mr. Bowley—Well, those books ought to be translated.

Further evidence was heard, and the case adjourned.

Thursday, July 16th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

THE ACTION FOR ALLEGED WRONGFUL SEIZURE.

The case of Leung Lai Nam and others v. Reuter, Brockelmann and Co. progressed another stage yesterday when Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., argued on the point of onus of proof with regard to justification of the act of trespass.

Counsel remarked that one would imagine the claim was one of trespass pure and simple, whereas it was doubtful whether there was any claim as to trespass at all. Apart from that there was a claim *inter alia* for damages for false representation, and also a claim for a declaration that what defendants did was done maliciously. Counsel submitted that if his Lordship were to hold that the claim was a claim for trespass, it would be a matter in regard to which the Court had no jurisdiction.

Mr. Slade—That is a point already argued.

His Lordship—I expected that point.

Mr. Pollock—I am not going to worry your Lordship by going through the case. I simply say that if my friend is right in saying that this should be regarded as a case

of trespass by seizure of the plaintiff's premises, then there is no jurisdiction in the Court.

His Lordship—I anticipated that point, and was looking through the evidence. The answer is conclusive in so far as that question is concerned. But the evidence is that the trespass, using the word in a technical sense, affected the chattels as well, and the seizure included an inventory of chattels.

Mr. Pollock—As regards that, those would be merely consequential acts. What is complained of is the seizure of the property by the Chinese Authorities under warrant. I submit to your Lordship that an action for trespass does not lie at all. There is no allegation in the statement of claim impeaching the warrant itself.

Mr. Slade—It is said to be illegal, that is all.

Mr. Pollock—With all deference to my friend, there is not one single word in the statement of claim to say that the warrant was illegal.

Mr. Slade—Together with the rest of the proceedings.

Mr. Pollock—What is complained of in paragraph 7 of the statement of claim is that the defendants acted illegally in setting the Chinese Authorities in motion. There is no more evidence before the Court by way of procurement of the warrant by defendants, through the Consul General than the letter to the Consul of February 21st, 1907. And plaintiffs would be hopelessly out of Court if it were assumed that the officer of the Pun Yu magistrate went with a piece of waste paper and closed the shop.

Mr. Slade in reply argued that if the defendants were relying on a foreign judgment or process they must prove it in the correct way, by the production of the record or a certified copy of it. Until that was done they had put up no defence, and there was nothing further for the plaintiffs to do.

The hearing was again adjourned.

FIRE ON THE GERMAN MAIL.

Fire broke out on the Imperial German mail steamer "Scharnhorst" when she was nearing Singapore on the present run. It is believed that the outbreak was due to spontaneous combustion in the larder where the provisions were kept. At any rate the flames had got a good hold before the fire was noticed but with good lengths of hose and plenty of water it was soon extinguished. The mail bags were saturated with water. In Singapore the postal officials experienced some difficulty in dealing with the correspondence, especially the papers. The mails for the other places were dried in the sun. The damage by fire was not great.

THE HONGKONG MAIL.

From Singapore reports it appeared that the Hongkong mail had been seriously damaged, but such is, fortunately, not the case. From inquiries made at the Post Office yesterday, Mr. E. Cornwell Lewis, the Assistant Postmaster-General, informed our representative that the damage done to the Hongkong mail was trifling. He was present during the sorting, and there was not one complaint about an indecipherable address. It appeared that the mails for Singapore and the Penang mails for Hongkong, received the most damage; they being on top of all the other bags, and consequently in a position to be deluged with the streams of water which were poured over the vessel to combat the fire.

According to Mr. Martin, superintendent of the registration and parcels branch, who was present when inquiries were made, the only real damage was to the parcel post, and even the owners of articles in this could be found by the register. But a few of these, such as cheeses and silks, would be spoiled. Many letters and parcels were put out in yesterday's sun to dry when our reporter called, and when these were collected later the names of the addressees were visible in every instance.

The remains of two Americans, a teacher named Everett and a forestry inspector named Wakeley, together with those of their native companions, have been found in the mountains of Pomari, Negros, Philippine Islands. It is understood from the brief telegrams received in Manila, that their death was brought about by one of the tribal chiefs who crused their food to be poisoned.

JAPAN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT].

THE CABINET.

Tokyo, July 4th.

At the moment of dispatching this letter the news is circulated that the Cabinet has tendered its resignation to the Emperor. In an "Extra" issued yesterday the *Jiji* stated that for some time past Marquis Saionji, the Premier, has suffered severely from a complication of troubles and that, being unable to perform his duties, he would resign. It was also stated that the whole Cabinet would take this course in a body, their unity and effective continuance of the government policies requiring Marquis Saionji's leadership. These reports are supported by the resignation, but there is no doubt about the near approach of a crisis in the financial policy of the country. Other financial matters, such as the Tokyo tramway municipalisation question, although this might appear local to outsiders, can greatly influence the central government policies. But the public learned yesterday that the Home Office has informed the Tokyo city authorities that the application for municipalisation is finally rejected, and this matter appears therefore to be dispensed with. The Government has a safe majority in the Diet and by this criterion is supported by the country. But such a criterion is perhaps an unsound one to go by in Japan, where politics is a machine little under the control of the elector. Serious difference of opinion is known to exist upon several matters of financial policy, including the administration of the nationalised railways, and this friction combined with the commercial depression prejudices the Government in the opinion of the country,—that is, the opinion of influential individuals and circles in the capital. Prince Ito is expected home in a few days and it is not thought likely that any further steps, such as actual resignation, will be taken before his return. Count Katsura, the War minister, is mentioned as the successor of Saionji.

DR. ROBERT KOCH.

There was no mistaking the genuineness of the welcome given to Dr. Koch on his arrival here a few weeks ago. The Japanese is much given to formal receptions. His language is formal and can be varied to suit the degree of the person spoken to in a very precise manner. One can easily understand, therefore, how heartless such receptions can be, especially in the case of dignitaries for whom one neither feels real respect nor admiration. But the reception given to Dr. Koch was an entirely different affair. Moreover, it came chiefly from the medical fraternity, and there can be little doubt about their feeling of respect for the great scientist—such as a pupil might feel for his teacher. Their one desire was to do him honour.

DINNER AND RECEPTIONS.

Although Dr. Koch has come here on a private visit to an old friend and former pupil, Dr. Kitazato, it was impossible for him to escape being lionised. He was introduced to a distinguished assembly at the Peers Club and afterwards appeared at a semi-public reception in the Conservatorium of the Academy of Music. Here a thousand people—two-thirds medicals and including, also practically the whole German colony—welcomed the professor, who improved the occasion by an interesting address on sleeping sickness. In the evening a brilliant theatrical display was given in the Kabuki Theatre. We who have been here years and are half Japanese have come to look upon the performances of the Japanese stage with a newly-born sentiment—we love the dancing, the plaintive call of the music, the simplicity of the actor—but what were the thoughts of the old man in the armchair? Seated in the midst of a crowd of modern men and women and catching occasionally a commonplace remark, what a contrast were these persons to the weird figures, the gestures and exclamations upon the stage! But perhaps Dr. Koch was oblivious to it all—speculating about the source of the bacillus of the sleeping sickness, of which his mind was full in the afternoon!

AMERICA'S EXAMPLE IN KOREA.

The Japanese press is pleased with the example America is setting other Powers in withdrawing its consular court from Korea and

thus placing its nationals in the peninsula on exactly the same footing as they are in Japan—subject to the courts of the country. Now that the country is under Japanese rule it is no doubt good diplomacy to extend the principle practised in Japan thus showing confidence in Japan's administration abroad, as it is acknowledged and approved by the Powers themselves. And from this point of view nothing at all can be said against it—it is a concession that Japan has a right to expect since she now governs the country. Korea, however, is not Japan and the conditions there may easily give rise to cases of a sort never tried in Japan. The Bethell case is an example. Mr. Bethell was fairly tried and convicted and foreigners feel confident justice was done, but however fair-minded a Japanese court might endeavour to be, a conviction from such a source would not have carried conviction with it and would have been political capital in the hands of Japan's enemies. If other Powers surrender their extraterritoriality Japan will assume the responsibility, as a matter of course, but not, probably, from choice.

AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR ON KOREA.

With the prosecution and conviction of Mr. Bethell for publishing seditious matter in his Seoul papers wider and keener attention is sure to be drawn to the position of Korea under the domination of Japan. And those for and against the Japanese rulers can severally quote their "scriptures," for the two most recent books published on the Peninsula Kingdom are of radically different character, the only point of likeness between them being in the qualifications of their authors—both men, apparently little qualified by experience and observation for the work. Mr. McKenzie's book "The Truth about Korea" is already pretty well-known and figured prominently in the Bethell trial, while Professor Ladd's work has only just appeared. Professor Ladd came to Japan some two years ago on a visit to last about nine months. He lectured extensively in this country on commercial schools, and this part of his work was thoroughly useful and beneficial because he spoke of what he knew. Then the professor went to Korea, as the guest of Prince Ito. After a short stay he went home and wrote a book.

THE BOOK WRITING INDUSTRY.

Now a man writing a book used to be an extraordinary person and more often than not the work was at least the result of much thought and labour. But nowadays, and since the war, the quality of stuff that is put into book-form is one of the most damning evidences of the profitless character of what the writers consider their education. The men and women still surviving who know their Bible thoroughly and are deeply versed in the writings of bygone authors of the Jeremy Taylor and Bunyan type are better educated men and women than these modern specimens who rush about the world and produce flabby, superficial books, illustrated by photographs. Professor Ladd will not construe the foregoing as an attack upon his education. The professor is a learned and a famous man but the field of his learning does not lie in Korea and his defence of the Japanese in the peninsula is uncalled for and presumptuous. He was the guest of Prince Ito in Seoul and writes a book defending Prince Ito's administration. It would have been ingratitude for him to attack Prince Ito's rule, but the proper thing to do was to write nothing—for publication. Those who know Korea and know Japan can place an estimate on Professor Ladd's book, but the thousands who know neither the one nor the other are but the blind following the blind.

THE TOKYO TRAMWAYS.

After twelve months of doubt and official "investigation" it is now announced that the Government refuses to sanction the proposal for the municipalisation of the Tokyo Electric Railway Co's lines. The proposal first passed through the Municipal Assembly and was then forwarded to the Home Office. Both these authorities seemed to be in favour, but the final arbiter, the Finance Department, opposed, on the ground that the financial situation does not justify the placing on the market of another large batch of bonds, about 100,000,000 yen. This can be readily understood, but a decision could have been given months ago and the tramway company would have known where it stood. During the period of these useless

negotiations the market has been affected badly and the company, in the belief that municipalisation would be effected, is alleged to have neglected its great property. Extensions throughout the city are in progress and whether the lines are public or private property they are a first-class investment, if properly managed. Millions of capital, at present yielding no return, are sunk in these extensions. It is thought now that municipalisation is refused the authorities will allow an increase of fares. The present rate is a uniform fare of 4 sen or one penny, which will carry a passenger any distance up to eight miles. It is absurdly cheap. Some increase of fare will be necessary in the near future, for when the new extensions are in working order it will be found that they produce little extra revenue, passengers simply making use of transfer tickets. In fact the multiplicity of lines in adjacent districts suggests that they are laid for the public benefit rather than for the profit of a business concern, and some revision of fares will become a pressing necessity. It is worth noting that the municipalisation proposal is not by any means advocated by all the influential shareholders. Recently a movement was begun by a considerable number, who prefer that the property should remain as it is, to secure a new directorate, and this would be a wise step. The company's dividend for the half year just concluded is at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, it having steadily declined one per cent. a year from 10 per cent. The decline is due to the low fare and to the large amount of capital used for extensions, which is at present yielding no return.

THE SHANGHAI DOCK AND ENGINEERING CO., LTD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The second annual general meeting of the above named Company was held at Shanghai on the 7th inst. Mr. John Prentice (chairman of the Board of Directors) presided, and there were also present: Messrs. C. Michelan, A. M. Marshall, James Johnston, David Landale, R. S. F. McBain and H. A. J. Macray (directors), W. A. C. Platt (legal adviser), Jas. H. Osborne (secretary), Dr. Gilbert Reid, Brodie A. Clarke, J. E. Bingham, W. S. Burns, A. L. Anderson, W. S. Jackson, H. J. Craig, Kung Sing-ming, P. Crighton, A. K. Craddock, O. S. Ilbert, F. C. Frischling, N. E. Cornish, J. Valentine and C. Mordhorst, representing 20,087 shares.

At the request of the chairman the secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN then addressed the shareholders as follows:—

Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, with your approval, we will take them as read. We regret that during the year the expected revival in shipping and trade did not take place and that in fact the depression in trade was slightly worse than the previous year. Our gross earnings for the year were Tls. 188,480 97 less than the previous year, but our net earnings show an increase of Tls. 88,084.82—a very satisfactory result of the arrangement made last year for the more economical working of the Company,—and when trade improves, as we hope it may soon, we look forward to earning good dividends on the capital of the Company. Shanghai is bound to progress and prosper and with our docks (5) and works we are able to undertake any kind of work which may come to the port. Our net profits for the year, including the amount brought forward from last year, amounted to Tls. 809,742.93 and after deducting the interim dividend of two and a half per cent paid in January, there remains for distribution the sum of Tls. 171,742.98, which we recommend to be dealt with as follows:—

A final dividend of Tls. 2.50 per share equal Tls. 188,000.—Amount to be carried forward to new amount Tls. 33,742.98. The whole of our properties, &c. has been kept in good repair and efficiency out of revenue and we thought that at the present time it would be better in the interest of our shareholders not to write anything off for depreciation.

Directors—Messrs A. M. Marshall and C. Michelan retire and offer themselves for re-election.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Bingham and Matthews, who retire but offer themselves for re-election.

Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions referring to them or the business of the Company to the best of my ability.

Mr. CRAIG said that since his return from Europe a day or two ago he had been looking into the affairs of the Dock in which he had no small interest and he must say that last night, on reading a certain evening journal, he had been very much astonished to find certain statements or insinuations made against the integrity of the directors of the company, or against the integrity of the auditors. Before the chairman moved the adoption of the report he thought it was due not only to the shareholders but also to themselves as directors, that they should have a very emphatic denial of these insinuations. He could not say they were assertions, but they were decidedly very disagreeable insinuations. If it would be allowed he would ask a question regarding the first insinuation, that Tls. 300,000 of fixed deposit in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank had, since the accounts were published, been withdrawn. If that was the case it was certainly a very serious matter for the company. He hoped that it was not the case, and that the directors would be able to answer to his satisfaction and to the satisfaction of the other shareholders. The second statement was that the sum of Tls. 122,759.94, the mortgage on the Native City Water Works, had been paid over during the year, and had been placed to the credit of profit and loss account. He thought they required a very decisive and very emphatic answer from the directors.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply, said that the Tls. 300,000 on fixed deposit in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank was still there (Applause). The first instalment of Tls. 100,000 was deposited on the 26th August, 1907; the second instalment of Tls. 100,000 was deposited on the 7th October, 1907; and the third instalment of a similar amount on the 23rd November, 1907; and the three amounts were still in the Bank. As regards the second question his answer was decidedly "No." Their earnings were stated in the accounts first by the directors and certified by the auditors, and they amounted to Tls. 309,742.98. It gave him much pleasure to answer these questions because he had seen the paper which had been mentioned and the statements contained therein were most misleading; they were absolutely false. The paper claimed that they had made only 2½ per cent, whereas they were making five or six per cent, and they all knew that the depression throughout had been very bad and that all people in Shanghai were suffering from it; and he was sure that when trade revived they would be able to pay a good dividend to the company.

Mr. JACKSON asked whether they were taking any steps to have these statements contradicted in the journal referred to.

The CHAIRMAN said that they were not taking any steps. He had hoped that they would have ignored them altogether. If their shareholders wished them to take action they would consult their legal adviser as to what steps they might take.

Mr. CRAIG said he did not know whether he was in order in speaking again on the same question, but if he might make a few remarks he would say that he believed, after having heard the replies to his questions, he did not for a moment think that it was at all advisable or wise to go into the matter any further. He thought that these lax statements, without authority or without knowledge, ought to be treated with the contempt they deserved (Hear, hear).

After consultation with the other directors the chairman intimated that the directors were in favour of treating the statements referred to with contempt and ignoring them entirely. He would ask the shareholders whether they were in favour of such a course or not.

On a show of hands the shareholders present showed themselves to be unanimously in favour of ignoring the statements.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. Marshall seconded, that the directors' report and statement of accounts, made up to the 30th April last as printed and circulated, be adopted and passed, and the directors be authorised to pay

a dividend at the rate of Tls. 2.50 per share to shareholders on the register at date.—Carried unanimously.

Messrs. A. M. Marshall and C. Michéau were re-elected directors on the proposition of Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Cornish.

Mr. B. A. CLARKE proposed and Mr. A. K. Craddock seconded, the re-election of Messrs. J. E. Bingham and F. N. Matthews as auditors. This was carried.

The CHAIRMAN said that before sitting down he would like to mention the absence from the meeting of their manager, Mr. J. Grant Mackenzie. Mr. Mackenzie's absence was caused by sickness; he was confined to his house.

On the motion of Mr. H. H. Read a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the directors for their services during the year, and the chairman replied on behalf of the board.

KIDNAPPED.

A HONGKONG BOY'S ADVENTURE.

The following story of a Queen's College lad's experience is related in the July number of the College Magazine:—

Lai Sui-kai is now in Class II B. At the last Annual Examination, he got a good place in III C, and thus earned, and was given promotion just before leaving this Colony for his holidays. He little thought, when he had his last glimpse of the College buildings, as his steamer slowly churned her way down the crowded harbour, that he would have to go through the extraordinary adventure here recorded, before he could actually take his place in his new Class. The facts that we are about to narrate were taken down from Lai's own statements.

Lui-pin-fong is a village of some six or seven hundred people in the district of Ho-tong, and about four li from Kung-mi, in San-ni. The whole locality is agricultural, and, as is usual in the country, particularly so in the winter months, people retire early. It was in Lui-pin-fong that Lai was spending his New Year holidays. His parents' house is rather isolated. On the 8th of the first Chinese month [i.e. February 9th] Lai's father was detained in Hongkong in connection with business, and the people actually in the house were Lai's mother, an old lady of fifty-four, a young sister, a sister-in-law with two children aged six and three respectively three women servants, and Lai himself. About midnight, after moonset, the entire household was suddenly awakened by unusual noises. A band of from sixteen to twenty men, armed with repeating rifles, revolvers, and swords, and carrying smoking torches, broke into the dwelling. They demanded all the ready money available. Then, they set to work and plundered the house, damaging and ransacking wherever they thought there was likelihood of anything being stowed away. In this manner, they collected money, of their own and personal ornaments, to the value of over \$1000. The women and children were terror-stricken and in tears, for it is well-known that men of this stamp are utterly callous and devoid of all feeling; they think nothing of taking human life on the very slightest provocation. Their visit lasted about an hour. When they had gathered everything that was at all worth carrying off, having uttered the most horrible threats of instant death to any one who should attempt to raise an alarm, they departed, taking Lai with them, but telling his sobbing relatives they would release him on the outskirts of the village. This however was not what they did; for, when they reached the open country outside the village, they informed Lai that they would only set him free again for a heavy ransom. They knew that the boy's father was a fairly well-to-do merchant in Hongkong, and they were determined to make him pay heavily for his son's release.

They had extinguished their torches and cast them aside, as soon as they left the house, and with Lai in their midst moved swiftly and noiselessly across country to Kong-mi, a place some four li off. They had to find a small river to do this. Having reached their rendezvous in Kong-mi, they put a chain about Lai's ankles, and bound his wrists with

ropes. It must have been between two and three a.m. when they reached their destination. For the rest of the night, as can easily be imagined, Lai got no sleep. During the early morning he was given a meal, after which he was called upon to write a dictated letter to his father in Hongkong, telling him of his plight, and stating in the most matter-of-fact manner that, unless he were ransomed within a certain reasonable time, he would be put to death. A sum of \$15,000 was first demanded; but when this and other smaller sums failed to elicit a satisfactory response, the amount asked for was reduced to \$700. In all, some ten such threatening letters were despatched. The father, after prolonged negotiation, agreed to pay \$700 on the 26th of the second moon. But, on the morning of that day, a company of some forty Chinese soldiers came up and rescued Lai from the clutches of the desperadoes. Approaching the house soon after daybreak, they fired their rifles, and the single robber then on guard fled from the back, and got away uninjured. Lai guessing at once how matters stood, but not daring to budge lest he should be mistaken for one of the band, called out as lustily as his weakened condition would permit: *Kau meng! Kau meng!* [Save Life! Save Life!]

He had been held captive forty-eight days, during which time he had been given two good meals a day. He had also been allowed to wash his face and hands once each day; but he had had no regular bath, and his clothes had been absolutely unchanged during the whole period. His state is more easily imagined than described. When he was discovered, he was unable to walk, so effective had his confinement been. A soldier however, took him on his shoulders to their boat, and thence, by steam-launch, to Chan Ts'un to see the local *Hip-loi* (Deputy Lieutenant Governor). After a stay there of two days, chiefly for purposes of examination and enquiry, he was escorted home by a small posse of soldiers. Before leaving *Sha-tau* the part of *Kong-mi* in which the robber's house was situated, the building where Lai had been last confined was razed by the soldiers. The rigid confinement had so enfeebled Lai, that a month's nursing and rest were needed to restore his strength, and to give him the full and free use of his lower limbs. He returned to School on the 1st of May; but even now [mid-May], says he feels the effects of his severe treatment. At times, the men struck him with sticks, saying that he was giving them untruthful and misleading information concerning the wealth of his father. They knew that the latter was in business in the Nam Pak hong in Hongkong. They wanted to know how many shops he had engaged in business, and what house property he owned. Lai, however, gave them the minimum information. They kept the terror of death constantly before him, telling him that even in the remote contingency of Provincial soldiers being sent to effect his recapture, he would not escape, for, on the appearance of the soldiery, they would, they said, put a bullet through his head. The number of men present in the different houses of detention varied; sometimes there were four, at others only one or two. When the soldiers actually appeared, only the robber leader was there.

During his confinement, Lai lived in no fewer than four separate houses. The first was a dilapidated building, where he was surrounded by the entire band, his stay there was only for three days. He was then moved to an ordinary dwelling house in the same village, owned by a middle aged cripple, who, although not an actual robber, was evidently a confederate, for he was charged with Lai's safe custody. Lai was in this man's keeping for nine days, during the whole of which time he was kept in his bed, not being allowed to walk a single step. The man's crippled condition was possibly the cause of this close confinement. Lai was afterwards taken to another small house not far off, owned by the robber chief, and here he was kept for close upon five weeks. His movements were not quite so restricted: he was allowed to walk round the room with his feet free and his hands unbound, for about half an hour after each meal, during which period he was very narrowly watched: after this brief time of freedom, his hands and feet were again shackled. He was

not once shaved during the whole period, so that his personal appearance at the end, was not very prepossessing. The dull monotony of his days was varied by frequent scoldings, although occasionally he was kindly addressed. He finally moved to a broken down, ramshackle old shop, still in the same village, where the furniture was so little, that Lai was called upon to sleep on the floor. It was from this house that his re-capture was effected. The long confinement, and the rigorous exclusion from all outside communication had by this time reduced Lai to a truly pitiable state, and he began to despair of ever seeing his family again. It seems that this particular robber band is notorious, and that they have put to death more than one of those they have held for ransom. This gruesome information was detailed to Lai in as vivid a manner as possible. When discovered, Lai was quite unable to walk: his legs were swollen, and he was in a state of prostration, physical and mental, closely approaching collapse. Meantime his family had moved *en masse* from the village to Canton, where they were overjoyed to see him again. Like him, they too had lost all hope. He was released on the 26th of the second month: but a period of close upon five weeks rest and treatment were required before he was sufficiently well to return to his studies.

Lai's father paid the soldiers about \$350 for their work of rescue. He was, it appears, quite well known in Kong-mi where he was detained so long: but, as his movements from one house to another had always taken place very late at night—and in native villages no one but robbers and wild beasts are encountered out of doors between sunset and sunrise he had never been seen, and his presence there was known only to the robbers. A petty thief had been caught by soldiers, and this man had guessed where Lai was confined owing to the movements of the robber chief. He communicated his suspicions to the authorities and was promised his own liberty if what he had said should turn out true. It was this chance information which really led up to Lai's ultimate rescue.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCIAL MORALITY.

One of the most encouraging developments (says the "Parsi") in our at present depressed cotton industry is the trade which has sprung up with Great Britain, Indian low count yarn being successfully placed on the English markets. Not only is the manufacture from our own staple and export of the finished product to England a thing which obviously ought to be possible, but the endeavour to maintain and increase the footing which our manufactures have thus obtained should have a good effect on the commercial morality of all ranks of spinners from the mill-agent to the coolie. When the benighted Chinaman was our only customer it did not seem to matter much what we gave him. The yarn might be of any length, and only approximate thickness, and when it was suggested that legislation should be passed with the object of ensuring a passable standard of honesty, some even of the most progressive of our millowners protested, saying that owing to the unskilled and irregular workers on whom the Indian cotton industry depends, greater accuracy (except at a ruinous expense) was impossible. However the Chinese demand has fallen off, and the new English customers protest that they must have yarn which it professes to be, or they will not buy it at all, however cheap. The desired reform is pretty certain to take place, for in face of the alternative, old impossibilities vanish and conscientious work will be found comparatively easy in every department.

JAPAN'S TRADE WITH INDIA.

The "Indian Trade Journal" publishes some interesting facts in connection with the trade between India and Japan some of which (says the "Times of India") merchants and millowners in this country, will do well to note. Of the total amount of raw cotton imported into the Kobe district during 1907 India supplied more than half, a satisfactory condition so far as it goes, but curiously enough a large amount of the raw material returns to the country in the shape of towels, shirts and under drawers. In other words, Japan after paying all man-

ner of vicarious charges, such as freightage for the double journey, insurance and so on, is able to work up the imported cotton, send it back, and undersell the mills in India which are put to no extra expense at all. The writer of the article attributes this remarkable result in a measure to Japanese shipping subsidies, longer working hours, and lower wages, but these reasons are not convincing. India like Japan is a country where labour is cheap, and the working hours long. The difference if any, in these conditions would not, we imagine, exercise a dominating influence. As to the shipping subsidies, that merely reduces to some extent Japanese disability, but does not remove it. It looks as if mill-owners in India need waking up.

TAIREN AND NEWCHWANG.

The value of imports at Tairen (Dalny) for last year was ¥28,920,000 and of exports ¥14,570,000, which compares with the values of ¥17,530,000 for imports and ¥23,130,000 for exports at Newchwang for the same year.

It will thus be seen that the imports of Tairen show an excess of over ¥10,000,000 on the figures of Newchwang, while exports are some ¥10,000,000 less, but in the aggregate Tairen is ¥830,000 ahead of Newchwang.—*Jap. Chronicle*

HEAVY IMPORTS BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

A vernacular contemporary, the *Japan Chronicle* observes, points out that while private enterprises are now giving orders abroad only for pressing needs, the Government is importing heavily machinery, shipbuilding materials, rails, and arms, which are arriving in large quantities. Every N.Y.K. steamer is filled with such cargo on its homeward bound voyage. The regular steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have proved inadequate, and the goods are being brought out by steamers chartered in England. The activity in the importation of the goods ordered by the Government may be judged from the fact that every steamer on the European line calls at Kure, Maizuru, Yokosuka, and other naval stations. This pressure of business in Government imports may last two or three months yet. Each steamer carries a cargo consisting of 3,000 to 4,000 tons of steel or iron and three to five 6-inch guns. The machinery and plant for the Hokkaido Steel Foundry and the materials for the South Manchurian Railway are also arriving in large quantities. Of the goods ordered by private companies, spinning machinery and plant are said to form the bulk.

THE CAMPHOR INDUSTRY.

Anxiety is felt in Japan in regard to the future of the camphor industry of the Empire. It is pointed out that the annual value of camphor produced in Japan has hitherto been ¥1,000,000 and that of Formosa ¥4,000,000 while the total demand for camphor throughout the world has amounted in value to ¥5,000,000 or ¥6,000,000. Thus the world's demand has been almost exclusively supplied by Japan. At this point, however, in increase in the demand forced up the price with the result that the production of camphor has largely increased in South China and elsewhere. Moreover the process of making artificial camphor is gradually being perfected, and the quality has improved so much that it can hardly be distinguished from natural camphor. Consequently its production has increased to a great extent, the output last year reaching a value of about ¥5,000,000. Thus the production of camphor in the world has increased to a value of ¥13,000,000 at a bound. Owing to the great industrial activity last year throughout the world, a profit of about ¥800,000 was made on camphor produced in Japan (exclusive of Formosa). But the trade has now become greatly depressed, showing a tendency to over-production, and it is feared the depression will continue so long as no change takes place in the markets of the world, while if the production of artificial camphor increases the camphor trade of Japan will be greatly affected.

The German Minister in Peking has informed the Waiwupu and the various Foreign Ministers in the Capital that he has been vested with the power of exercising authority over the Turks in China.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

PREPARING FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

A cablegram was received by the local authorities a few days ago stating that a Manchu Reader of the Imperial Academy named Man Pan, had most strenuously urged that the proposed parliament for China should be established within the next three years. His arguments must have carried weight with the Central Government as on Thursday the newly-established Government Institution, called the "Self Government Investigation Bureau," issued a proclamation of which the following is a translation:—

"The number of scholars and gentry recommended by the officials of the Self-Government Investigation Bureau to be members of that institution from different Prefectures, Districts, &c., (in Kwang Tung) has already reached its limit. It is now absolutely necessary to fix an early date for the inauguration of the Bureau. In order to give sufficient time for the learned scholars, gentry, &c., to proceed to Canton we have appointed the 20th day of the 7th moon for the inauguration of the institution, and the first deliberation will take place on that day. There will positively be no postponement. We sincerely trust that you will, one and all, obey this proclamation. You are required to report your arrival and register your names and addresses without fail ten days before the opening of the Bureau. At the appointed time you are requested to attend the inauguration ceremony attired in your official robes and hat. Do not compromise the affair by neglect or procrastination."

AN APPEAL TO THE THRONE.

Some time ago the Committee of the Self-Government Association petitioned Viceroy Chang to memorialize His Majesty to graciously remit the field taxes and also to order that special funds be granted for the relief of the districts affected by the flood. The Viceroy replied that he had already sent a memorial to the Grand Council describing the pitiful state of affairs, but that it was not proper for him to make suggestions to the Throne with regard to granting money. As regards the remission of taxes he believed the Throne would grant a remission; in any case an enquiry would have to be made in the affected districts to ascertain the real amount of damage done. His sympathies are with the people.

GOVERNOR CHANG ON THE WAR PATH.

The first batch of students in the survey department of the Two Kwang Military College completed their course of studies about two months ago. Governor Chang of the Kwangsi Province recently applied to the College for 12 students to survey the Kwangsi Province for military purposes. He said that as soon as the plans are ready, printed copies will be distributed to all the military officers of that province so that they may acquire a full knowledge of the territory and thus will be able to manoeuvre with more precision in the event of a rebellion or war. The Governor intends to call the attention of the Government to all the important places where forts and garrisons are necessary, and also to the places on which "foreigners have their envious eyes."

A second batch of students has been invited to join that institution and the President of the College was authorized by the Viceroy to issue a proclamation of which the following is a literal translation:—

"This proclamation is issued to inform the students, gentry, merchants, etc., whose children have an inclination to present themselves for examination to enter the survey department of the Two Kwang Military College. From the 5th day of the 7th moon to the 25th day of the 7th moon the College will be open for the registration of candidates, and those who call after that date will not be received. Candidates are requested to call personally at the College; and must bring their photographs with them; they are required to furnish a written statement of their place of origin, relationship &c., for the last three generations, and name the gentry or firm who recommended them.

The regulations and conditions for admission into the college are enumerated below:—

- (1) Age—Between 18 and 20 years.
- (2) Conduct and Character—Honest, sincere and unblemished.
- (3) Must be of good family.
- (4) Inclination and Will—Sincere heart to study and addicted to no other desires.
- (5) Education and Talent—Must have already studied the Chinese Classics, Sze Shu and Ng King, and be capable of composing an essay of at least 50 characters on any given subject.
- (6) Dialect—Capable of speaking the mandarin dialect.
- (7) Mean average height—1.60 metre.
- (8) Chest—Above four-tenths of the height of body.
- (9) Weight—Above 32 kilos.
- (10) Lungs—Above 16.0 Lufong Saogti?
- (11) Optical power. Above 20 power.
- (12) Physical requirements—Five senses sound, four limbs active, voice powerful, teeth white, ear sharp and eyes clear."

DEGREE IGNORED.

During Viceroy Chow Fu's régime a decree was issued prohibiting the existence of "fan tan" houses within 10 li of any barracks. It appears that that decree has been ignored since his departure. There are now half a dozen gambling houses in the northern suburbs bordering on the parade ground and the soldiers were frequently seen visiting them. The Director of the new army has brought the matter to the notice of Viceroy Chang. Instructions have accordingly been issued to the Police and the Bureau of Local Affairs to order the establishments to be immediately closed. He has also issued instructions that soldiers should not be admitted into those establishments under penalty of cancellation of their license.

THE WATERWORKS.

The Canton Water Works Co. have informed the Viceroy that the reservoir and water tower have been completed and the main pipes have been laid throughout all the principal streets both in the walled cities and suburbs. They are now working day and night in connecting the distribution pipes to the main pipes, and in a short period the entire task will be accomplished.

PROPOSED ICE FACTORY.

The Waterworks Co. now request permission to establish a large ice factory and they ask also for the sole privilege of supplying water to all merchantmen and men-of-war in the Harbour. The Company point out that ice is now largely consumed by both the foreign and Chinese communities here and in Macao and they obtain all the ice from the only factory that is established in Hongkong. Further they mention that the water of the Water Works which is obtained from Tsang Po is of the purest and best quality; it was analyzed and selected by a British chemist who certified it to be of excellent quality. At present there is a pumping station at Tsang Po where there is a large boiler and a complete staff of engineers, firemen, &c., and the Company state that they already have adequate hands to work an ice factory; the only thing needed is the ice plant (!) They would be able to turn out ice cheaply, and could successfully compete with any other concern. Finally, the petition says, "If the business were to grow then we would regain all the profits in this connexion which have hitherto been flowing out of our country."

PIRACIES.

Recently there has been a recrudescence of piracy in the Canton Delta. Only a few days ago a Chinese launch was pirated near the Macao Fort (Back Reach) and many junks trading between Canton and the interior report having been harried up by pirates. I am informed that on the 14th inst., another launch was attacked by pirates near Fat Shan. This recrudescence of piracy may be due to the distress occasioned by the flood, bad characters taking advantage of the situation to plunder.

RECOMMENDED FOR HONOURS.

In consequence of the numerous successful seizures of firearms by the officers of the Imperial Maritime Customs, U.E. Viceroy Chang, appreciating the energetic and good work done by the Customs, is now inquiring into the meritorious services rendered in this connexion by the different Customs Stations within his

jurisdiction and will recommend the Throne to grant honours to the Commissioners of Customs.

CHOLERA.

Cholera is not only gaining ground here but it has spread to several districts up-country and is playing havoc in those places. I am informed that over 100 deaths occur daily in the City and its environs. The newspapers publish a prescription which they allege has saved the lives of over 2,000 people since the outbreak of the epidemic.

A NOTE FOR HONGKONG STUDENTS.

A proclamation (in Chinese) has been issued by Mr. Paul H. King, Commissioner of Customs here, inviting Chinese students to join the I. M. Customs training institution at Peking. Candidates are requested to call at the Customs Office to register themselves on or before the 27th day of the 6th moon. Youths between 16 and 22 years are eligible. The preliminary examinations for admission into the College will commence on the 3rd day of the 7th moon. The subjects are English composition, translation, (English into Chinese and vice versa), Geography, Mathematics, natural philosophy (all the above in English) Chinese composition and classics, and commercial correspondence. Natural philosophy is at the option of the candidates. These examinations will also take place in Peking, Shanghai and Hankow on the same day and the essays and papers of the candidates of Canton and the three latter places will all be forwarded to Peking for classification.

The successful candidates will have four years' training in the College. The curriculum comprises: Finance, Foreign Languages and Composition, International Laws, Treaties, and Mathematics, Geography &c., and on completion of these studies the students will receive appointments in the Imperial Maritime Customs. This being the first occasion, the Government will not charge any tuition fees, and will also maintain and clothe the students and provide them with stationery and books gratis. This is an excellent opening for Chinese students in the Hongkong Colleges.

FIRE.

A fire of rather serious nature broke out in the Viceroy's Yamen a few days ago. It started at 11 a.m. and hundreds of pumps responded to the gong calls. Almost all the civil and military officials turned out and rendered assistance. Admiral Li Tsun was the first official who arrived at the Viceroy's Yamen after the alarm was given. The fire originated in the clerks' department and was put out at 3 p.m. Many valuable books and manuscripts were burnt. It is said that a clerk who had gone out had left an opium lamp burning in his room which accidentally set fire to the papers that were lying on the opium couch. The department was entirely demolished.

A destructive fire broke out at 5 o'clock on Saturday morning in Ching Yuen street close by the Imperial Chinese Post Office. It originated in a drug shop and destroyed 48 houses. The kerosine shops are close by and great excitement prevailed for a time as it was feared they would catch fire. An amusing incident occurred during the fire. Half a dozen firemen went into a tailor's shop to drink some tea. The occupants believing them to be robbers had them arrested. As soon as the arrest was known the other firemen had them released from the police station. After the fire was put out the firemen piled up over 30 hand pumps in front of the offending shop as a warning to others. The shopmen are parleying with the angry firemen for a compromise as no customers can get within twenty yards of the shop. The damage done by the fire is estimated at about \$150,000.

There was a pleasant ceremony at St. Joseph's College last week-end when the pupils assembled to bid adieu to Brother Stephen, one of the teaching staff who left for home on holiday by the English mail. His Lordship Bishop Pozzani presided, and after the departing pedagogue had been presented with an illuminated address, two handsome silver pens and a silver inkstand Mr. A. R. Ellis addressed the meeting on his sterling qualities. The teacher was then escorted to the s.s. Malta by his pupils, and as the steamer cast off three ringing cheers were raised by the boys to Brother Stephen.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

SILK.

YOKOHAMA, 30th June.—The demand for raw silk has considerably improved and prices have advanced rapidly, although the poor quality of the remaining old stock has prevented a large business from being done. Some parcels of new silk have arrived and have been quickly disposed of at the same time as various contracts for forward deliveries have been made. The quality of first arrivals of new silk may be said to be fair. Various reports as to the volume of the new crop are to hand, conservative estimates giving the number of bales available for export during season 1908/1909 as 100,000 to 110,000 bales, but in this connection it should be remembered that much will depend on the summer and autumn cocoon crops, and likewise that a fair quantity of old cocoons still remain in the interior.

A small but steady business has been done in waste silk during the last fortnight. At the close the market is stronger, prices all round showing an upward tendency.

The exports from July 1st to June 30th are 33,382 bales to Europe and 71,626 to America, a total of 105,008 bales. This is a big advance on the figures of previous years.

Habutai Silk.—Prices for Kanazawa rose considerably soon after the commencement of the period under review, but slightly weakened toward the close. The demand both from Europe and America has been unimportant, that from the former being entirely confined to 23in. goods. Quotations for Fukui advanced to no little extent during the month, but have reacted toward the latter part. The chief demand has been for the better grades for Europe, and there has been also enquiry for 27in. for America. Although total production of Kawamata has decreased, prices for 20in. have fallen considerably, due doubtless to the greatly increased output of this narrow width, which shows that 15,000 pieces 20in. have come on the market out of a total of 20,000. Thirty-six inch goods have been remarkably firm, while 23in. and 27in. have both declined.

SUGAR.

Kobe, June 30th.—The imports of beet have been steady and prices unchanged. The market for cane (raw) remains dull. Muscovados Basis Polarisation 96 per cent. colour average 12½ is quoted at Y.5.85/5.95 per picul, ex-ship. The usual auction of Osaka refined took place on the 23rd inst., when 5,700 bags were offered. 4,700 bags were sold at an advance of from 10 to 20 sen and the remainder withdrawn, the bids being below the refinery's ideas.

Yokohama, June 30th.—No business.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 20th July.—In consequence of heavy arrivals and accumulation of stocks prices which have been ruling high are declining.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.50	to	\$5.55
" Round, Good quality ...	5.30	to	5.35
" Long	5.40	to	5.45
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	5.15	to	5.25
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	5.70	to	5.75
" White,	6.20	to	6.25
" Fine Cargo	6.70	to	6.75

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, July 16th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$920	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$955	do.
Malwa Older	\$970/80	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1010/80	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$900	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$880	do.
Patna New	\$1065	per chest.
Patna Old	—	do.
Benares New	\$975	do.
Benares Old	\$—	do.

FOOCHOW, July 8rd, 1908, Business during the week is summarised as under:—

VESSEL.	Malwa chests.	Patna chests.	Benares chests.	Persian chests.
Stock on 25th June, 1908 ..	22	15	9	54
July 3, Imported during the week	26	5	—	37
• Total	54	20	9	91
Sales during the week	20	8	4	32
Estimated Stock	34	12	5	59
• Pls.	—	1.20	1.20	1.20
Quotations ..	Now \$920	\$112	\$1000	\$575
Old \$1030 to \$1040	—	—	—	—

KEROSENE.

FOOCHOW, 3rd July, 1908.—Imported during the week 237,200 gallons, as against 151,500 gallons for the corresponding week of last year.

HANKOW, 1st July, 1908.—No imports during the week.

YOKOHAMA, 30th June. Arrivals and deliveries for the second half of June show—Standard Oil Coy, arrivals, nil; deliveries, 21,300 cases; Rising Sun Petroleum Co., arrivals, nil; deliveries, 20,000 units.

FLOUR.

FOOCHOW, 3rd July.—During the week 4,496 bags were imported, bringing the total since 1st June up to 29,589 bags which is a decrease compared with the 35,478 bags for the same period of 1907.

YOKOHAMA, 30th July.—Stocks are about 60,000 sacks. Owing to the impossibility of competing in price with the native output foreign competition has practically closed for the time being.

YARN.

FOOCHOW, 3rd July, 1908.—During the week there were imported 47,300 piculs Indian, as compared with 20,100 for the corresponding week last year.

PIECE GOODS

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 2nd July, 1908, states:—The course of trade during the interval has not been altogether a very smooth one, and but for the fairly favourable clearances in the earlier part it might well have been thought that it had suffered another relapse. As it is, the business going on is a purely retail one, what buying there is being from hand to mouth, the quantities, in most cases, being too small to be any criterion of the actual market. The shocking state in which the popular currency of the country has now got into, as pointed out in all the recent Customs Reports we have given extracts from, and which is actually going from bad to worse, is undoubtedly the cause to which is attributable the great depression in trade all over China. Until the Native Authorities can be made to see the necessity of coining and issuing single copper cash and much nearer their intrinsic value than the present 10 cash, or 1 cent pieces—that are not actually worth 50 per cent of their face value and will not pass for more—the present helpless muddle must continue. It is quite possible to imagine the country farmers and market gardeners being forced, in the towns, to accept these tokens in payment for their produce, only to find when they want to invest in foreign goods their coin is not worth more than 40 to 50 per cent of what they received it at. This must ultimately lead to disaster, and will force the agriculturists to revert to the ancient system of barter. The whole currency question is in a rotten state, and is being complicated by the issue of private bank notes in the same promiscuous manner as the Provincial Treasuries are circulating these inferior 10 cash pieces. Nothing should be allowed in circulation that the I. M. Customs Banks will not accept at their face value in payment of duties. Are they willing to accept the two media referred to at their face values, if at all? It is reported that for some time past goods originally imported into Tientsin direct are finding their way to this market and are being sold for what they will fetch, irrespective of the cost to the importers, who are supposed to have delivered them on the credit system. That sort of thing is not calculated to assist our market, which is already overburdened with goods of the same class that have to be liquidated. The disappearance of native indentors interested in the fancy goods trade has not yet ceased, and in a majority of instances the cause of their troubles is distinctly traceable to the over persuasiveness of some special agent of a Manchester House! After the distressing news that has been coming in for weeks past of the anticipated direful consequences of the long drought in the North, it was refreshing to hear that rain had at last fallen. In some parts, however, it appears to have been altogether too excessive, railway bridges washed away and rivers overflowing being now the order of the day. In this neighbourhood we are having quite a sufficiency, but the country is fairly well drained and the crops are not suffering, the prospects for both cotton and rice being very favourable. Newchwang is

the market that appears to be making most rapid progress toward recovery and is the centre for which the bulk of the business has been done this week. The clearances comprise a great variety of goods, but American drills form the bulk. Other markets remain much the same as last reported. Natives interested are not saying much about Corea, but seem to be in a decidedly hopeful mood. The Manchester market is very strong, prices keeping well over those ruling here. Cotton in Liverpool has kept fairly steady, to-day's quotations coming 6.43d for Mid American and 7.4d for Egyptian. The "Future" price for the former came yesterday 5.83d, when spot was 6.47d. The export of Plain Cottons from England last month amounted to 36,000,000 yards, a quite unexpected quantity. New York is very firm, but nevertheless business has been done for this market, chiefly in Jeans and light weight Drills. Manufacturers are not at all disposed to press sales, and the small business already done appears to have imbued them with strength. The quotations for Cotton in New York that are received here appear to be very irregular, being 9.26 cents for October and 9.40 cents for December, while to-day September option comes 9.43 cents. The Yarn market, both for imported and local spinings, has been fairly active at steady to firm prices. Quotations are firm for what little native Cotton there is on offer. No details have appeared of the small business that has been done from first hands in Manchester makes, as we mentioned above, the individual quantities being very small, but comprising quite a variety of makes, and all for prompt clearance, although there are heaps of old contracts in the books that Importers cannot get moved. The Foreign Exchange Banks were closed yesterday and to-day for the Summer Holiday, really to balance their books, so no quotations have been available since the 30th ulto. Silver has dropped a sixteenth in London since then.

EXPORTS:—

TEA.

FOOCHOW, 3rd July, 1908.—During the week the following settlements have taken place: Congous, 8,700 half chests; Souchong, 6,650 half chests; scented teas 825 boxes; and Flowery Pekoes, 268 chests.

This season's stocks comprise 22,400 half chests congou, 13,170 half chests Souchong, 1,000 half chests Oolong, 1,190 boxes scented teas, and 479 chests Pekoe.

The total shipments for the 1908-9 season are:—Congou, 5,606,661; Souchong, 2,428,734; S. O. Pekoe, 27,308; F. Pekoe, 342,041; Sorts, 58,234; total 8,462,978 lbs.

HANKOW, July 1st.—Business reported since the 25th ult., is as under:—

	1908.	1907.
Settlements ...	15,844	7,017
Consisting of the following Teas:—		
1-Chests.		
Ningchows.....	2,286 at Tls.	— at 38.00
Wenchows.....	58	—
Oopacks.....	1,185	15.10
Oonams.....	6,599	14.25
Oofaas.....	2,845	14.75
Seang-tams.....	1,602	13.75
Ichangs.....	1,354	31.50

The following are Statistics at date compared with the corresponding statement of last season, viz, 26th June, 1907:—

	1908.	1907.
HANKOW TEA	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements ...	428,312	369,294
Stock ...	10,760	12,047
Arrivals ...	445,072	381,341
KIUKIANG TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements ...	169,245	169,470
Stock ...	21,775	15,962
Arrivals ...	191,020	185,432

Comparative Quotations per picul are as under:—

	1908.	1907.
Ningchow Tls.	15.50 at 100.00	Tls. 19.00 at 100.00
Khemuns ..	21.00 .. 67.00	.. 18.50 .. 74.00
Hohow ..	19.00 .. 24.00	.. .. ..
Kutoans ..	25.50 .. 27.00	.. 21.50 .. 25.50
Wenchow ..	19.50 .. 21.00	.. .. ..
Oopack ...	13.50 .. 26.00	.. 12.90 .. 27.00
Oonam ...	13.60 .. 27.00	.. 12.00 .. 28.00
Oonfaa ...	14.75 .. 36.00	.. 17.00 .. 35.50
Seangtam ..	13.75 .. 18.50	.. 12.30 .. 17.30
Ichangs... ..	31.50 .. 65.00	.. 29.00 .. 69.00

Hankow Tea Kiukiang.

Season 1908-1909...	lbs. 4,741,684	lbs. 3,521,891
" 1907-1908...	" 6,518,257	" 4,293,970
" 1906-1907...	" 4,244,204	" 3,774,520

The export to 29th June, as per Customs Returns stands thus:

	1908/9	1907/8	1906/7
Via Shanghai,			
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
To Great Britain.....	1,387,869	1,600,153	2,168,701
" U. S. & Canada	3,493,107	2,806,047	1,562,271
" Continent	1,983,609	1,731,622	1,213,279
" Russia via North..	1,299	3,218,504	—
" Russia in Europe,	487,860	—	—
" Shanghai.....	896,729	540,542	1,559,601
Direct, 1908..			
U. S.	196,864	lbs.	
Gr. Britain	3,386,720	"	
Continent	313,092	"	
Russia in Europe...	2,611,115	"	
Russia in Asia	11,062,388	"	
Direct, 1907..			
Russia in Asia	1,800,326	lbs.	
ss "Loongmoon"	1,800,326	lbs.	

YOKOHAMA, 30th June.—No change to report so far as price and quality are concerned. Stocks are small and second crop teas are making their appearance slowly. Very little interest is being shown by foreign buyers in present offerings, though fairly large transactions are reported from Shidzuoka on the part of native buyers. The new crop, so far, shows the usual want of quality in leaf when compared with first crop teas with none of the usual advantages. Total settlements at Yokohama from May 1st to June 29th amount to 54,350 piculs, against 63,430 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

Kobe, 30th June.—Settlements to date amount to piculs 28,000 against piculs 41,000 for the same period last season.

CAMPBOR OIL.

FOOCHOW, 3rd July, 1908.—No fresh business is reported.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, July 20th.—The market remains very dull and there is no change in price. Quotations are \$85.00 to \$88.00.

FOOCHOW, 3rd July, 1908.—There has been exported during the week 350 piculs, bringing the total since 1st June up to 928,75 piculs, as compared with 2232,83 piculs for the same period in 1907.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

Messrs Arnhold Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 29th June, 1908, states: Gallnuts—Good demand but little business results, as supplies coming in are small. Cowhides—Market closed. Feathers—A good business has been done during the past two weeks. Stocks are well cleaned up. Cotton—no cargo offering. Tallow.—There is good demand for fall delivery. Strawbraid—Demand almost nil. There have been small settlements in common split at very low prices in Laichow mottled and Shansi mottled. Wool.—Sheep's, no demand. Fairly large stocks. Wood Oil—market quiet. Antimony—Good demand from the home markets. Very little offering. Statistics show that since 1st October, 1907, there were shipped 27,635 piculs gallnuts, 99,414 piculs cowhides, 16,078 piculs tobacco, 26,293 piculs feathers, 54,811 piculs cotton, 59,613 piculs tallow, 73,010 piculs wood oil, 1,274,145 piculs sesamum seeds.

Per P. & O. steamer Malta, sailed on 11th July. For Manchester:—85 bales waste silk, For Gibraltar:—1 case cigar, 2 cases silk piece goods, For Lyons:—383 bales raw silk. For St. Chamons:—34 bales raw silk. For Seville:—35 bales tea. For Marseilles:—329 bales raw silk, 265 waste silk, 7 cases human hair, 4 cases feathers, 1 case embroidery. For London:—1,676 packages tea, 80 bales raw silk, 108 bales waste silk, 4 cases silk, 1 case embroidery, 9 cases chinaware, 1 case paper pictures, 1 case bird's feathers, 1 case bristles. For Trieste:—50 bales waste silk.

July 20, 1908]

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT

HANKOW, July 1st.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best selected	Tls. 30.50
Do. Seconds	" 27.00
Buffalo hides, Best selected	" 22.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 9.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" 8.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" 7.70
Jute	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 10.30
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng	" 10.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" 9.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 9.60
Animal Tallow	" 10.30
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 15.50
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 18.00
Tobacco, Tingchow	" —
Tobacco, Woungkong	" —
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.65
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 8.65
Tea Oil	" —

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 17th July, 1908.—The past week has brought about but little change in the general condition of our market, and we have again to report but a meagre business, with rates on the whole practically unchanged. Bar Silver has ruled fairly steady during the interval, and closes at 24½d, with Exchange on London at 1/9½ T.T., and on Shanghai at 7½ T.T.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have again been booked at \$750, and close in further request at the rate. The London rate has again advanced, and is now quoted at £80, for London register shares, showing a difference of upwards of \$130 per share in favour of purchasing in this market. Nationals are without business, but are still enquired for at \$51.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are reported to have been booked at \$790, but at the close there are sellers at \$785, and even \$780 would probably lead to business. China Traders are still enquired for at \$86½ and Yangtzes at the improved rate of \$155. North Chinas can be procured at Tls. 78, and Cantons at \$225.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas have been booked at \$92 and \$92½, and are in further request at the higher rate. Hongkongs have ruled quiet at \$315 with sellers.

SHIPPING.—The only sale we have to report is in Hongkong, Canton and Macao at \$29, market closing with probable buyers at the rate. Other stocks under this head are unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—No business has transpired and quotations are unchanged. Chinas at \$130 and Luzons at \$22, both with sellers.

MINING.—Charbonnages continue in request at \$580, and a higher rate might even be paid. Raubs have ruled dull, and in the earlier part of the week were done at \$6½ and latterly at \$6½ but at the close a firmer tendency has set in and it is possible that \$7 might be paid.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are quiet, and without business at \$103. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$48 and \$47½ and close with sellers at the higher rate. There are buyers of Shanghai Docks at Tls. 79, but supplies do not seem available locally. New Amoy Docks continue on offer at \$9½. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have declined to Tls. 212½ with sellers.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$97 and close in further request. West Points have been taken off the market at \$48, and Humphreys at \$10, both closing however with further sellers.

Kowloon Lands can be placed at \$26. There are sellers of Hongkong Hotels at the reduced rate of \$88. Shanghai Lands are unchanged at Tls. 122.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have advanced to \$60, but otherwise quotations are unchanged, and there is no business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Sales have been booked of Hongkong and China Gas at \$185, and of Electrics at \$16. There are buyers of China Providents at \$9½, Dairy Farms at \$19½, Ices at \$230, Union Waterboats at \$10½, and Steam Laundries at \$5½. China Borneos are procurable at \$10½, Ropes at \$24 ex the interim dividend of \$1 per share on account of 1908, paid on the 15th instant, China Lights at \$6½, and Watson's at \$9½.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$750, buyers
National B. of China	£8	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12s. 6d.	\$7½, sellers
China-Borneo Co...	\$12	\$10½, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	{ \$6½, sellers } { \$9½, buyers }
China Provident	\$10	
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 60
Hongkong	\$10	\$11
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 67
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 242½
Dairy Farm	\$8	\$19½, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$48, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$103
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 79, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 212½
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10.60, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$185, sales
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$38, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co...	\$25	\$230, buyers
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co...	\$10	\$24, x.d., sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$92½, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86½, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$315, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls 78, sellers
Union	\$100	\$785, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$155, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$97, buyers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$26, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 122
West Point Building	\$50	\$48, sales & sel.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$580, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$7
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	{ \$14 } { \$2, sellers }
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$130, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$22, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$29, sales
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$25	{ \$19, sellers } { \$21, sellers }
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	45/6, c/d.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$25, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$15, sellers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$23, buyers
Steam Laundry Co ...	\$5	\$5½, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M & Co...	\$10	\$10
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5½
Watkins	\$10	\$3
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Wiemann Ltd	\$100	\$150, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$13, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$240, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10½, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

9th July, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$770, sellers
National of China...	£8	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	{ R187½ } { T125 }	{ Tls. 175, sellers }
Insurance:—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$790, sellers
North-China	£5	Tls. 77½, sellers
Yangtze Assoon. ...	\$60	\$160, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$280, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$92, sales
Shipping:—		
Indo-China { pref. } { def. }	{ £10 } { £10 }	{ Tls. 29½, buyers } { Tls. 14½, buyers }
Shell Trans. { ord. } & Trading { pref. }	{ £1 } { £10 }	{ £25.0, sellers } { £9.10, sellers }
S'hai Tug & { ord. } Lighter ... { pref. }	{ T50 } { T50 }	{ Tls. 45, buyers } { Tls. 5½, buyers }
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48, sales
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Eng...	T100	Tls. 78, x.d.,
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$104, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 217½, sellers
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$51, sales
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½, sales
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 95, sales
China Refining	\$100	\$132½, sellers
Mining:—		
Raub Australian ...	{ £1 } { 18/10 }	{ \$8, sellers }
Chinese Eng. & Min.	£1	Tls. 15½, buyers
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment...	T50	Tls. 121, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$99, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$104, sales
Wei-hai-wei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 101, sellers
Cotton:—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 58, buyers
International	T75	Tls. 67½, sellers
Laou Kung Mow ...	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 242½, sellers
H'kong C. S. W. D..	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial:—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 113, buyers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 55, buyers
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14, sales
China Flour Mill ...	T50	Tls. 56, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 48, sellers
Green Is. Cement...	\$10	\$104, sellers
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat	Gs. 100	Tls. 525, sellers
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 85, buyers
S'hai Waterworks...	£20	T390, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	50	\$35, sales
Kalumpung Rubber	50	\$55, sellers
Eastern Fibre	10	nominal
Shanghai Electric Construction	£10	£10. 5s., sellers
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$19, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$43, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary ...	\$15	\$12½, sellers
Central Founders...	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co. ...	\$50	\$47, ex div.
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$21½, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$20, sellers
Hongkong Hotel ...	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 7½, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$150, sellers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sales
S'hai Horse Bazaar	T50	Tls. 45, sellers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 57, sellers
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse Repository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
China Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSETT & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 9th July, states:—Business has been on a somewhat small scale this week and there is nothing particularly interesting to record. Banks.—H & S. Banks Shares have been in demand and we quote the rate at closing as \$787½. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/5. Marine & Fire Insurance.—There is no business reported. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co., ord.—Shares have changed hands at Tls. 45. Taku Tugs have been placed at T. Tls. 48. Docks & Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co. Ltd. The dividend of Tls. 2½ having been paid yesterday shares are now quoted at Tls. 77½. ex div. buyers. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. In the early part of the week sales took place at Tls. 222½ for cash and Tls. 223½ for Sept. but have since declined and small lots are offering for cash at Tls. 220. and for Sept. at Tls. 222. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Lands Investment Co. A fair business has been done at Tls. 122 and Tls. 121½. Anglo-French Lands remain at Tls. 101. Industrial.—Ewos. Cash shares have changed hands at Tls. 57. Internationals. Transactions are reported at Tls. 66½, Tls. 67 and Tls. 67½ for cash and Tls. 69 for September. Laou Kung Mows. A sale has taken place at Tls. 86 for September. Shanghai Gas Co. have been dealt in at Tls. 113 and there are further buyers. Shanghai Pulp & Paper Co. A single transaction is reported at Tls. 48. Maatschappij &c. in Langkats. The market has been very quiet, and a small lot of cash shares changed hands at Tls. 527½ and consequently Tls. 525 has been done. The forward rate has declined from Tls. 545 for September to Tls. 542½ closing with sellers. Shanghai Sumatras. Some business has been put through at Tls. 85 for September, but at the close there are buyers for cash at Tls. 85 and Tls. 86 for September. Shanghai Waterworks have been in demand and after a sale at Tls. 390 there are no further sellers under Tls. 400. Miscellaneous.—Hall & Holtz remain at \$19½, with some transactions reported. Central Stores Ordinary shares are quoted at \$12. Astor House Hotels have declined to \$19. Dunning & Co. Ltd. have been dealt in at \$47½. Shanghai Mutual Telephones. Business has taken place at Tls. 58 for cash and there are sellers at Tls. 57. Loans & Debentures.—Municipal six per cent Debenture have been dealt in at Tls. 109½.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, July 20th.

ON LONDON.—			
Telegraphic Transfer	.....	1/9½	
Bank Bills, on demand	.....	1/9½	
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	.....	1/9½	
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	.....	1/9½	
Credits, at 4 months' sight	.....	1/10½	
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	.....	1/10½	
ON PARIS.—			
Bank Bills, on demand	.....	227½	
Credits 4 months' sight	.....	232	
ON GERMANY.—			
On demand	.....	185	
ON NEW YORK.—			
Bank Bills, on demand	.....	44	
Credits, 60 days' sight	.....	45½	
ON BOMBAY.—			
Telegraphic Transfer	.....	136½	
Bank, on demand	.....	137	
ON CALCUTTA.—			
Telegraphic Transfer	.....	136½	
Bank on demand	.....	137	
ON SHANGHAI.—			
Bank, at sight	.....	74½	
Private, 30 days' sight	.....	75½	
ON YOKOHAMA.—			
On demand	.....	88½	
ON MANILA.—			
On demand	.....	89	
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand			
On demand	.....	78	
ON BATAVIA.—On demand			
On demand	.....	108½	
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand			
On demand	.....	9½ p.c. pm	
ON SAIGON.—On demand			
On demand	.....	9½ p.c. pm	
ON BANGKOK.—On demand			
On demand	.....	84	
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate			
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	.....	\$10.85	
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per taal			
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per taal	.....	\$57.20	
BAR SILVER, per oz.			
BAR SILVER, per oz.	.....	24½	

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.	
Chinese	20 cents pieces	.....	\$8.95 discount.
"	10 " "	.....	9.30 "
Hongkong	20 " "	.....	8.65 "
"	10 " "	.....	8.70 "

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July—

ARRIVALS.

9. Ayuthia, British str., from Bangkok.
 9. Ragnar, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
 9. Sheila, British str., from Moji.
 9. Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
 9. Winnebago, Brit. str., from San Francisco.
 10. Benlarig, British str., from London.
 10. Chihlar, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 10. Drufar, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 10. Huichow, British str., from Amoy.
 10. Malta, British str., from Yokohama.
 10. Tean, British str., from Manila.
 10. Yochow, British str., from Shanghai.
 11. Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 11. Glenavon, British str., from Moji.
 11. Kotohira Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
 11. Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 11. Luchow, British str., from Newchwang.
 12. Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
 12. Choising, German str., from Bangkok.
 12. Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
 12. Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
 12. Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
 12. Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 12. Hinsang, British str., from Hongay.
 12. Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 12. Orange Branch, Brit. str., from Sydney.
 12. Reidar, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 12. Shinano Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
 12. Tjipanas, Dutch str., from St. James.
 13. Curonia, Russian str., from Singapore.
 13. Halls, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 13. Johanne, German str., from Haiphong.
 13. Knivsberg, German str., from Swatow.
 13. Loyal, German str., from Saigon.
 13. Namsang, British str., from Moji.
 13. Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 13. Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Amoy.
 13. Totomi Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 14. Chingto, British str., from Australia.
 14. Cyclops, British str., from Singapore.
 14. Goeben, German str., from Yokohama.
 14. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 14. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 14. Kansu, British str., from Wuhu.
 14. Moyune, British str., from Foochow.
 14. Nippon M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.
 14. Shansi, British str., from Chinkiang.
 15. Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
 15. Beesie Dollar, British str., from Moji.
 15. Carnarvonshire, Br. str., from Shanghai.
 15. Chingwo, British str., from Hankow.
 15. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 15. Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 15. Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
 15. Ichang, British str., from Newchwang.
 15. Kwangse, British str., from Shanghai.
 15. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 15. Scharnhorst, German str., from Bremen.
 15. Singan, British str., from Haiphong.
 16. Fri, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 16. Helene, German str., from Swatow.
 16. Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
 16. Kulsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 16. Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 16. Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
 16. Seirstad, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 16. Solstad, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
 16. Silesia, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 16. Syria, British str., from London.
 16. Taishan, British str., from Saigon.
 16. Wosang, British str., from Wuhu.

July—

DEPARTURES.

10. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 10. Derwent, British str., for Saigon.
 10. Elax, British str., for Tientsin.
 10. Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
 10. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 10. Hupeh, British str., for Hoihow.

10. Marmora, British str., for Shanghai.
 10. Menelaus, British str., for Japan.
 10. Nikko Maru, Jap. str., for Australia, &c.
 10. Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 10. Shinchiku Maru, Jap. str., for Sourabaya.
 10. Sumatra, German str., for Yap.
 10. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 11. Amara, British str., for Hongay.
 11. Capri, Italian str., for Singapore.
 11. China, American str., for San Francisco.
 11. Heliopolis, British str., for Durban.
 11. Kjeld, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
 11. Kowloon, German str., for Tsingtau.
 11. Kweiyang, British str., for Amoy.
 11. Malta, British str., for Europe, &c.
 11. Minnesota, Am. str., for Seattle, &c.
 11. Monteagle, British str., for Vancouver.
 11. Sanuki Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 11. Tsintau, German str., for Swatow.
 11. Zaffro, British str., for Manila.
 12. Benlarig, British str., for Nagasaki.
 12. Earl of Douglas, Brit. str., for Newcastle.
 12. Guadiana, French str., for Saigon.
 12. Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 12. Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 12. Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 13. Dagny, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 13. Hopsang, British str., for Saigon.
 13. Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 13. Ragnar, Norwegian str., for Rejang.
 14. Cheongshing, British str., for Swatow.
 14. Chinkiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 14. Curonia, Russian str., for Foochow.
 14. Glenavon, British str., for Bangkok.
 14. Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
 14. Knivsberg, German str., for Hoihow.
 14. Kotohira Maru, Japanese str., for Siam.
 14. Tean, British str., for Manila.
 14. Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
 14. Winnebago, British str., for Swatow.
 15. Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
 15. Ayuthia, British str., for Bangkok.
 15. Forest Dale, British str., for Samarang.
 15. Goeben, German str., for Europe, &c.
 15. Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
 15. Huichow, British str., for Swatow.
 15. Japan, British str., for Singapore.
 15. Petchaburi, German str., for Swatow.
 15. Sexta, German str., for Nagasaki.
 15. Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.
 15. Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 15. Totomi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 15. Vauxhall, British str., for Yokohama.
 16. Chihli, British str., for Haiphong.
 16. Cyclops, Br. str., for Keelung and Japan.
 16. Glenogle, British str., for Amoy.
 16. Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 16. Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., for Sydney.
 16. Quinta, German str., for Saigon.
 16. Shantung, German str., for Hoihow.
 16. Yochow, British str., for Amoy.
 16. Zweena, British str., for Batavia.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Chingtu, from Australia, &c., Mrs Perry and child, Mrs Corry, Mrs Springer and child, Mrs L. de Mendieta and servant, Colonel Cox, Messrs. H. Wolfenden, M. Corr, A. Perry, W. Farmer, C. S. Farmer, J. H. Farmer, D. Avery, P. McMahon, R. Coates, A. Wyatt, D. Fitzgerald, R. Anderson and W. Brown.

Per Rubi, from Manila, Mr and Mrs Burke and child, Mr and Mrs Jennings and 2 children, Mr and Mrs Dunn, Mr. Mrs and Miss Baldwin, Major and Mrs Case, Misses J. Bassa, T. Bassa and R. Bassa, Master Archie Case, Messrs. Fisher, King, Dauser, Gebaio, Valasco, Morgan, Higgins and Gold.

DEPARTED.

Per Zaffro, for Manila, Misses M. Aldridge and M. C. Young, Messrs. H. H. Palmer, E. H. Grooms, R. Dalesandio, Oag Sintz, F. Sevilla, C. Morillo and J. Decimono.

Per China, for San Francisco, &c., Mr and Mrs Geo. Lammert, Rev. and Miss McCook, Misses Hodgen, Sarah Picknell, Anna Eakle and Jean Loomis, Dr. J. D. Hodgen, Asst. Surgeon E. H. H. Old, U.S.N., Brig. Gen. P. Reade, U.S.A., Messrs. W. J. Conruid, D. McIntyre, F. J. Jorge, C. H. Coulson, E. Schreck, W. S. H. Holmes, A. M. Marine, A. T. Percerville and T. D. McKay.

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